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Mid-term Review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

Report of the Secretary-General

Septembre 1996

Examen à mi-parcours du Nouvel ordre du jour des Nations Unies pour le développement de l'Afrique dans les années 90

Rapport du Secrétaire général

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Mid-term Review of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF)

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For further information please contact:

Pour de plus amples renseignements, s'adresser à :

Africa Recovery
Room S-931
United Nations, New York 10017
Tel: (212) 963-6857
Fax: (212) 963-4556

Secretary-General's Mid-term Report on UN-NADAF

Summary

Africa has made significant progress in key sectors over the past five years, but it needs greater commitment at both the African and international levels to consolidate these gains, says UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In his mid-term report on the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), the Secretary-General argues that for Africa's efforts to succeed within the time frame of the Agenda — which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1991 — the international community should provide "adequate and assured resource flows" as well as "an enabling external environment."

A deeper commitment to a "dynamic partnership" between Africa and the international community is critical to the realization of the continent's potential over the coming years, says the Secretary-General. The international community must improve the "level, scope and modalities of aid" and take "additional and decisive measures" to resolve Africa's debt crisis. It must also take concrete steps to help African countries adjust to the new global market environment, his report urges.

At this critical point, the international community should accelerate its support in order to sustain the momentum leading to recovery and sustainable development, says the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General notes that financial flows to Africa over the first half of the New Agenda "stagnated at a level below what was expected," with net flows of official development assistance (ODA) to Africa declining from $25 bn in 1992 to $23 bn in 1994. "At this critical point," the report says, the international community should "accelerate its support" to Africa in order to "sustain the momentum leading to recovery and sustainable development."

African countries, for their part, need to acknowledge that "Africa's future is in their hands," according to the Secretary-General. Their leaders must demonstrate a greater commitment to the goal of achieving sustained and sustainable growth and development by allocating adequate resources for this purpose. Africa must boost its aggregate savings rate to channel resources towards capital investment, and open its productive and financial sectors to the world if it is to achieve UN-NADAF's annual target growth rate of 6 per cent in gross domestic product (GDP). In addition, greater investment inflows, diversification of export products and expanded access to external markets are urgently required.

Slow but steady progress since 1991

Reviewing the efforts made by African countries and the international community to implement the New Agenda, the Secretary-General finds that most African countries have taken action to promote growth and development. These actions include a range of political and economic reforms, which have resulted in the following signs of "tangible progress":

- A significant improvement in overall economic performance, with the number of countries achieving the target 6 per cent annual GDP growth rate increasing from three in 1992 to 12 in 1995, and the number of countries with negative growth dropping from 19 in 1993 to three in 1995.
- A growing commitment to sub-regional and regional economic cooperation and integration consistent with the 1991 Abuja Treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community.
- Marked progress in democratization and constitutional reform, with a dramatic growth in the holding of multi-party elections and expansion in the number and impact of civic organizations. The role of non-governmental organizations in national development programmes has also grown, with an emphasis on fostering community participation and self-help efforts.
- Recognition of the key role of the domestic and foreign private sector in economic development, with expanding efforts to promote private entrepreneurship and an improved business climate.
- Reforms aimed at boosting the development of the agricultural sector and improving access to food by the poorest groups. Many countries have also formulated environmental action plans and fostered community participation in efforts to control desertification, as well as adopting new population policies.

After noting "an unprecedented change in the landscape" of Africa's "political economy," the Secretary-General's report focuses on recommendations both

for Africa and for the international community for enhancing the New Agenda's implementation over the remainder of the decade. The pressing issues facing Africa, according to the Secretary-General, include: governance, democratization and peace; human development and capacity-building; mobilization of domestic resources and foreign direct investment; trade and diversification of Africa's commodities; and industrial development.

By adopting the Cairo Agenda for Action in March 1995, Africa's leaders declared that good governance — characterized by accountability, transparency, the rule of law and a clear separation of powers — is essential to Africa's socio-economic development. Peace and stability are also prerequisites. While considerable strides have been made since the beginning of the decade, the Secretary-General recommends further steps to consolidate the democratization process in Africa, improve governance and prevent or resolve conflict.

These include the creation of a institutional framework that provides for wider popular participation in the decision-making process, the emergence of a strong and vibrant civil society, dialogue with all groups within society and adherence to the rule of law. There should also be provisions for the independence of the media and an objective judicial system, as well as an efficient civil service and a strong partnership between government and the private sector. Lastly, mechanisms for promoting peace, political stability and security should be instituted.

A major challenge for the remainder of the 1990s is to develop Africa's human resources in order to better match capacities with the needs of the development process.

Human resources development

The Secretary-General's report states that a major challenge for the remainder of the 1990s is to develop Africa's human resources in order to better match capacities with the needs of the development process. It recommends that efforts should be focused on the following priority areas:

Expanding health care systems to ensure more equity, efficiency and reach in service delivery. Greater participation of the private sector and community-based organizations in health care delivery may be required.

Integrating comprehensive population policies and programmes into development strategies.

Provision of reproductive health and family planning services should be strengthened.

Intensifying efforts towards achieving universal primary education and literacy. Constraints to enrolment must be removed and curricula adapted to the continent's development needs. The private sector should also be encouraged to become involved in post-secondary vocational and technical education and teacher training, as well as production of instructional materials.

Addressing the problems of unemployment and underemployment. The private sector can play a role in technological development in vital sectors of African economies, including agriculture. The informal sector, which employs more than 60 per cent of the urban labour force, needs to be strengthened.

Empowering women to participate fully in the development process. Efforts to implement the Beijing Platform for Action should be accelerated, and progress achieved in this regard should be monitored and evaluated.

Mobilizing resources for development

The Secretary-General's report recognizes that Africa requires massive amounts of resources to implement the New Agenda, most of which will have to be mobilized domestically. Among the measures proposed to do so are: raising public revenue by restructuring taxation and collection, controlling public expenditures, increasing private savings by appropriate interest rate policies, mobilizing community resources and savings, and boosting external trade. In particular, Africa needs to create competitive niches in the industrial and services sectors and increase the share of manufactured goods in its export mix.

The business climate also needs to be improved to attract domestic and foreign direct investment. This entails ensuring political stability, accountability and transparency; sustaining macro-economic stability by appropriate fiscal, monetary and financial policies; curtailing military expenditures; and nurturing entrepreneurship. Particular attention should be paid to developing telecommunications as a vital element of basic infrastructure.

Improvements in financial infrastructure are also needed, including facilitating increased capital transfers between private institutions through money markets and banks, as well as financial transactions and

transfers among African countries. Financial intermediation institutions — banks, credit unions, cooperatives and other organizations which mobilize small-scale savings — should be strengthened.

African economies must be diversified away from dependence on a limited number of primary commodities which are facing declining demand and prices on world markets, the Secretary-General's report recommends. Both vertical diversification, through increased processing to enhance the value-added of existing commodities, and horizontal diversification, through production of a wider range of exports, need to be encouraged. Governments should place greater priority on diversification in their development policies and create an enabling environment by encouraging private sector initiatives in this area, improving infrastructure and strengthening human resources and technological capacity.

The report also calls for policies that accelerate industrial development, describing this as key to the structural transformation of African economies, to increased employment and incomes and to the diversification of exports. Efforts should be made to strengthen sub-regional and regional institutions in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and management, as well as to develop indigenous entrepreneurial capability with a focus on micro, small and medium enterprises.

Based on the principle of "shared responsibility" between Africa and the international community, UN-NADAF calls for a "full partnership" in support of the continent's development efforts. The Secretary-General's mid-term report urges the international community to "reinforce its support" for Africa by increasing the "level, scope and modality of resource flows," by improving the external environment especially as it relates to the debt crisis, by supporting the diversification of commodities, and by enhancing market access for Africa's exports.

There is "a strong case" for increasing the volume and concessionality of development assistance to Africa, the report indicates, given the economic difficulties of many countries which make access to private funding impossible. There is also a need to improve the quality of international support to Africa's efforts in the 1990s.

Measures which should be considered, according to the Secretary-General, are:

- re-channeling aid to Africa's key development priorities, while taking into account capacity-building requirements so that technical assistance can be phased out over time;
- linking humanitarian and development assistance by allocating more resources to conflict prevention and reconstruction in post-conflict countries;
- switching to non-debt creating assistance.

Africa's efforts in conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict reconstruction deserve the full support of the UN, bilateral and multilateral donors.

In areas where donor investments predominate, such as agriculture, infrastructure development and health, the Secretary-General recommends better aid coordination, one of the goals of the UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa that was launched in March 1996. A broader sectoral approach, with the objectives determined by the recipients, would further improve the impact of assistance. International aid should also be geared at consolidating national capacities for implementation and should involve a minimum of technical assistance. Donors in a given sector should develop common implementation and follow-up arrangements so as not to overtax already stretched capacities of the host government.

Africa's efforts to address conflict prevention and resolution and post-conflict reconstruction need to be incorporated into a more comprehensive and coordinated approach with the support of other actors, including the UN and bilateral and multilateral donors. The OAU Mechanism for the Prevention, Management and Resolution of Conflicts and its Peace Fund should be supported and early warning capacities should be strengthened.

While progress has been made in resolving the international debt crisis since the early 1980s, this has not applied to Africa's low-income countries, where external debt servicing claims nearly one-fifth of their average savings and almost half of total debt service is paid to multilateral institutions. Regarding Africa's debt crisis, the Secretary-General's report recom-

mends the following initiatives:

Official bilateral debt: the Paris Club should be encouraged to extend the Naples terms 67 per cent debt-stock reduction limit if the circumstances of individual countries justify it. It could also give up-front debt-stock reductions for countries with good track records of policy reform.

Multilateral debt: the World Bank and IMF should be encouraged to implement recent proposals endorsed by the Bank-Fund Interim Committee.

Commercial bank debt: banks should be encouraged to accept deeper discounts in buy-back operations and lower interest rates on par bonds, and to devise options to reduce up-front costs.

Consideration should be given to providing additional resources for the World Bank's debt-reduction facility for International Development Association countries.

To offset any potential negative impact of the Uruguay Round on African countries, appropriate compensatory facilities, including further tariff reductions by developed countries on African exports and assistance with food imports, should be supported. The international community should implement General Assembly resolution 49/142 which recommends the improvement of existing compensatory mechanisms, and expansion of opportunities under the Common Fund for Commodities. The Secretary-General also urges donor countries to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification programmes in African countries.

South-South cooperation

Turning to South-South cooperation, the Secretary-General notes Africa's need to establish the necessary institutional framework to coordinate and strengthen exchanges with and benefit from the experience of advanced developing countries. He urges them to initiate consultations, business tours, and exchanges of information with African countries. The UN system, funding organizations, donors and the private sector should enhance their support for South-South cooperation by allocating the necessary resources to these activities. ■

For more information please contact Africa Recovery, UN Department of Public Information
Room S-931, United Nations, New York 10017 Tel: (212) 963-6857; Fax: (212) 963-4556

Overview

"The New Agenda for the Development of Africa is a new departure in international development cooperation. I am strongly committed to it. It must be made to yield results."

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Geneva, 28 December 1992

As the international community begins the Mid-term Review of the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), it is clear that the New Agenda has succeeded in achieving some tangible results. But despite the various efforts of African countries themselves, donor countries and international organizations, those results have fallen far short of what was envisioned when the New Agenda was launched in 1991. Many of the problems Africa faced five years ago have become even more acute, while most of the region's potential has yet to be realized.

On the positive side, in 1995 a dozen African countries achieved UN-NADAF's target of 6 per cent annual growth in gross domestic product (GDP), while the number of countries suffering negative growth rates dropped from 19 in 1992 to three in 1995. Most countries also have implemented, to varying degrees, political and constitutional reform, and multi-party elections are now a regular occurrence across the continent.

In almost all countries, domestic prices and external trade have been liberalized, and about 35 countries have made monetary adjustments. Regional integration is moving forward, with sub-regional groupings building the economic ties between countries that will help serve as the foundation for the African Economic Community. Governments also have revised their foreign investment codes to make their countries more investor-friendly, and most are promoting private sector growth.

Economic and social woes

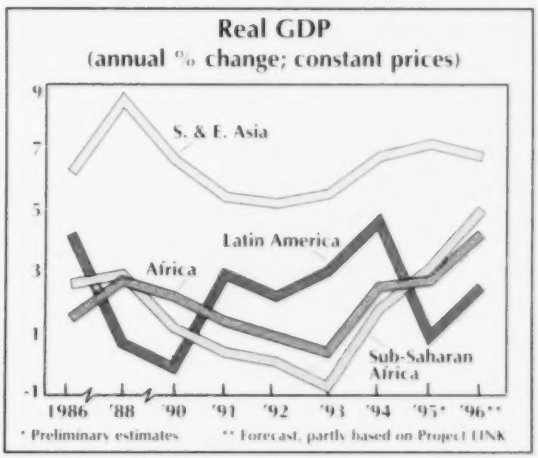
But despite the progress that has been made, Africa continues to be plagued by economic and social woes. In the 1990s, Africa's GDP has accounted for less and less of world output (about 2.04 per cent on average), even though its share of world population has increased (to about 12 per cent in 1995). And while Africa's GDP grew by 2.3 per cent in 1995, its population increased by 2.9 per cent, resulting in an actual per capita income decline of 0.6 per cent.

Africa still relies on a handful of primary commodities for its export earnings, and its share of world trade has steadily decreased, falling from 3.1 per cent in 1990 to 2.1 per cent in 1995. External indebtedness has swelled, with total debt stock reaching $322.4 bn in 1995, while foreign direct investment has declined significantly.

In the social sector, widespread unemployment and cutbacks in public expenditures in real terms, particularly in health, education and social welfare, continue. Due to inadequate economic growth, many countries lack sufficient resources to invest in human development.

A shared responsibility for development

UN-NADAF grew out of the General Assembly's 1991 final review of the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD), which represented a unique agreement between African countries and the international community on specific and far-reaching efforts to accelerate Africa's development process. UN-PAAERD was the first such programme ever adopted by the United Nations and it created major expectations of better prospects for Africa.



Source: UN Africa Recovery from UN/DESIPA

But as the final review of UN-PAAERD noted, "economic and social conditions actually worsened during the five years (1986-90) of the UN-PAAERD period." Indeed, even though 30 African countries had embarked on political and economic reforms through structural adjustment programmes, the economic and social crisis facing the continent since the early 1980s had continued unabated.

The New Agenda was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 1991 after three months of

protracted negotiations, Ambassador Martin Huslid of Norway, who chaired the negotiating sessions on UN-NADAF, said "it was not a perfect document" and "was not so rich in concrete figures," but it firmly placed Africa on the UN agenda for all of the 1990s.

Under UN-NADAF it was agreed that although Africa had the primary responsibility for its own development, the international community "shared responsibility" in achieving the continent's goals. Within this context, the principal priority objectives of the New Agenda were "the accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth of the African economies, in order to strengthen them within the world economy, reduce their vulnerability to external shocks and enhance self-reliance."

Ambitious development goals

In addition to an annual GDP growth rate of 6 per cent, UN-NADAF cited the Secretary-General's estimate of $30 bn as the minimum net official development assistance (ODA) needed for Africa in 1992, a level that should increase at a rate of 4 per cent per year. It also reaffirmed the goal of devoting 0.7 per cent of gross national product to ODA.

In order to achieve UN-NADAF's objectives, both Africa and the international community accepted certain commitments and responsibilities. Africa's commitments included:

- achievement of sustained and sustainable growth and development;
- promotion of regional and sub-regional economic cooperation and integration;
- promotion of investment;
- pursuit of agricultural and rural development policies and strategies in order to fully integrate rural economies in their national context, achieve food security and strengthen self-reliance;
- protection of the environment.

The international community pledged to provide full support to Africa in its efforts to achieve sustainable growth and development. Key areas of this support included:

- a solution to Africa's debt problem;
- increased resource flows;
- enhancing Africa's export earnings by providing greater access to markets and by supporting the diversification of Africa's economies;
- regional economic integration.

In his 1993 preliminary report on UN-NADAF implementation, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali noted that in 1991-93, economic growth rates stagnated or turned negative, per capita incomes fell further, financial inflows were down sharply, the debt burden grew steadily and terms of trade worsened.

In a speech to the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development following the release of the report, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said that "while Africa strives to put its own political and economic house in order, the international community must not remain idle or indifferent."

Responding to the Secretary-General's report, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for "full and tangible" international support for UN-NADAF. The resolution reminded member states of the need for a 4 per cent real annual rise in aid flows to Africa, and for measures in support of capital formation. It also reaffirmed Africa's need for debt relief and debt cancellation, and urged African countries to continue with efforts to improve the investment climate.

The challenges ahead

The Secretary-General's mid-term report on UN-NADAF implementation outlines what has been achieved by Africa so far, as well as the many challenges the continent still faces as it looks ahead to the second five years of the New Agenda.

Perhaps the major challenge will be how Africa can marshal the massive amounts of resources needed to effectively implement the New Agenda and forge ahead towards economic recovery and sustainable development. Clearly, most of these resources will have to come from Africa itself.

African countries will have to create an enabling environment that will enhance investor confidence, arrest and reverse capital flight, and attract foreign and domestic investment. Diversification of exports and the penetration of new markets will be key to regaining and increasing Africa's share of world trade. Political stability, together with accountability and transparency, are also critical ingredients for mobilizing both domestic and external resources.

And if Africa is to regain economic viability in the run-up to the millennium, the international community will have to lend full and tangible support. International assistance will have to be re-channeled to focus on the well-articulated priorities of African countries. Efforts at preventing and resolving conflicts as well as reconstruction of post-conflict societies will need to be supplemented by international financial and technical assistance.

Finally, further steps will have to be taken to alleviate the crushing debt burden, which the Secretary-General has described as a "millstone around the neck of Africa." ■

Resource flows

Africa faces major problems in mobilizing resources for development, although most African countries have pushed through difficult policy changes since the 1980s. The continued low levels of domestic savings are insufficient to boost the pool of resources needed for both public and private investment. And despite the commitments made by Africa's international partners in the framework of UN-NADAF, external resources also remain inadequate due to the continent's debt crisis, low and declining levels of foreign direct investment (FDI) and the decline in official development assistance (ODA).

UN-NADAF described the provision of adequate resource flows as a "critical element" of international support for Africa. To achieve sustained per capita growth, the Secretary-General estimated that a minimum of $30 bn in net ODA was required in 1992, with real net ODA subsequently growing at an average 4 per cent a year.

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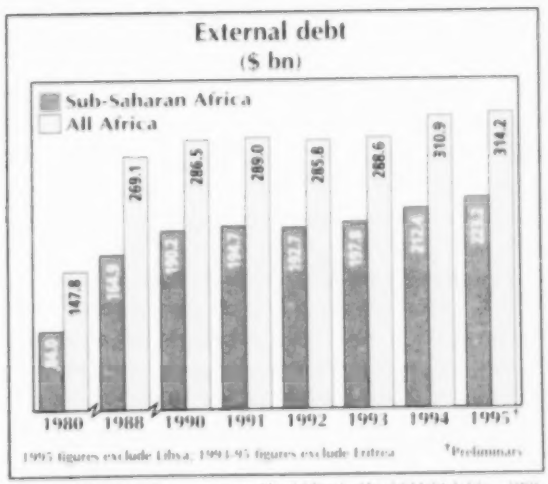
Bearing these targets in mind, the international community undertook to "pursue its efforts to provide additional resource flows" which would complement Africa's own drive to mobilize domestic resources. International commitments included the effort to find durable solutions to Africa's debt crisis and to attain the target, which the UN adopted in 1970, of devoting 0.7 per cent of gross national product to ODA. Africa's development partners also promised to introduce measures and devise programmes to encourage foreign direct investment.

Africa's debt crisis

Africa's external debt is now widely acknowledged to be unsustainable, and the search for durable solutions has intensified. African debt has risen from $289 bn in 1991 to over $314 bn in 1995. Sub-Saharan African debt has climbed from $194.7 bn to $223.2 bn over the same period, and from over 239 per cent to almost 270 per cent of export earnings. Although Africa's annual debt-service payments fell from $30 bn in 1991 to $22 bn in 1994, they leaped to $33 bn in 1995. Reflecting this trend, Africa was using 31.3 per cent of its export earnings to service its debt in 1991. Although this ratio fell to 23.4 per cent in 1994, it rebounded last year to nearly 31 per cent. Sub-Saharan Africa's arrears on debt-service payments have nearly doubled from $32.6 bn to $62.2 bn in the 1991-94 period. As the UN Secretary-General has pointed out, debt service claims nearly one-fifth of Africa's savings and over 4 per cent of gross domestic product. Servicing multilateral debt in turn accounts for nearly half of total debt service. With Africa's low level of savings, such burdens are not considered sustainable.

Faced with this growing debt overhang, the emphasis with regard to bilateral debt has shifted from simply rescheduling debt service on more concessional terms to include an effort to cancel more of the debt stock. The growth of multilateral debt has also become a prominent issue, prompting the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) to announce a plan in early 1996 for deeper relief of both bilateral and, for the first time, multilateral debt.

Up until then, the major advance at the bilateral level had been the adoption of the "Naples terms" by the Paris Club of official bilateral creditors in late 1994. These terms permit up to 67 per cent reduction of export credit debt stock or debt service owed to Paris Club creditors. Due to the strict criteria for eligibility, only a handful of African countries have so far received Naples terms for debt service. With nearly half of



Source: UN Africa Recovery from World Bank, *World Debt Tables*, 1996

African countries bearing unsustainable debt burdens, the Secretary-General said in 1995 that the impact of Naples would remain "limited unless it is applied to a sizeable part of outstanding debt and debt stock and extended to a larger number of countries."

Uganda's case has shown that Paris Club action under the Naples terms "is unlikely, on its own, to resolve the debt problems of countries with high proportions of multilateral debt," the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said recently. With multilateral debt comprising 77 per cent of Uganda's total debt, the 67 per cent reduction by the Paris Club of its eligible bilateral debt stock resulted in Uganda's total outstanding debt falling by just 4 per cent.

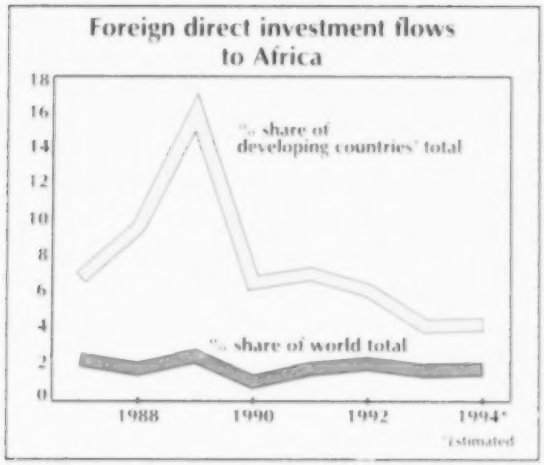
Responding to international pressure to find solutions to the growing problem of multilateral debt, the World Bank and IMF have targeted some 20 heavily indebted and poor countries, mainly African, as potential beneficiaries of a new plan. They have recommended that the Paris Club grant relief of up to 90 per cent of bilateral debt, and have asked major creditor countries to provide the bulk of funding for a trust fund to help certain countries pay off their multilateral debt.

Both developing and developed countries have raised objections to key aspects of the plan, ranging from the rigidity of the criteria for eligibility to the distribution of the financing burden. While the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized nations gave their backing to the Bank/Fund plan in principle at their June 1996 summit, crucial aspects remain to be settled, not least the financial input to be made by the Bank, the Fund and by bilateral creditors. Some decisions are expected at the annual Bank/Fund meetings in late September.

FDI INVESTMENT FLOWS

The importance of progress on debt has been repeatedly underscored since heavy indebtedness has been identified as a disincentive to foreign direct investment (FDI). The Secretary-General has urged investors "not to treat Africa as a whole as an inhospitable location for FDI and ignore potential opportunities." He cited as evidence a UN inter-regional study of FDI profitability for foreign affiliates of US companies which showed that net income as a proportion of owner's equity was 24 per cent in African countries compared to an 11 per cent average for all developed countries. Although the OECD has noted "some sign of an incipient increase" in foreign direct investment, associated with policy changes in some countries and "the emergence of South African companies as investors in the continent," recent data do not confirm this view.

In spite of the political and economic reforms implemented in some 37 African countries, the continent is being bypassed by the boom in investment flows. For all developing countries, net FDI inflows have risen remarkably from $22.6 bn in 1991 to $60 bn in 1995. But the story has been very different for Africa, with net FDI increasing from $1.8 bn in 1991 to $2.9 bn in 1994, before falling back by 27 per cent in



Source: UN Africa Recovery, from UNCTAD, Foreign Direct Investment in Africa, 1995

1995 to $2.1 bn. This confirms the continuing decline in Africa's share of total FDI to developing countries, which has fallen from 10 per cent in 1987-91 to 5 per cent in 1992-94, and to just 3.6 per cent in 1995.

Most African countries continue to improve their investment regimes and other parts of the regulatory framework in order to enhance the role of the private sector, both domestic and foreign, in economic growth and development. The Secretary-General has recommended further effort in this direction and has urged donor countries to help develop local infrastructure and build local capacity for investment promotion. However, the recent trends in development aid have not been very encouraging.

CONCERNS OVER DEVELOPMENT AID

In contrast to the Secretary-General's estimate, cited in UN-NADAF, that Africa would need an increase in ODA from $25.2 bn in 1991 to $30 bn in 1992, with a subsequent annual rise of 4 per cent, total net ODA actually fell by $212 mn in 1992. It then plunged to $21.5 bn in 1993 before recovering to $23.5 bn in 1994.

The decline is mainly attributed to the near halving of ODA to North Africa from $6.9 bn in 1991 to

$3.9 bn in 1994. Over the same period, sub-Saharan Africa's net ODA rose from $17.7 bn to $18.9 bn. But while multilateral disbursements have risen (from $6.3 bn in 1991 to $7.2 bn in 1994), there has been a steady fall in bilateral ODA to sub-Saharan Africa from the 21 members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD (from $11.1 bn in 1991 to $10.4 bn in 1994). The latter figure accounted for 32.7 per cent of total ODA to sub-Saharan Africa, the lowest proportion since 1991.

Sub-Saharan Africa's dependence on largely concessional ODA "remains almost total," the OECD noted. However, the overall trends for concessional aid are disturbing. In 1995, global ODA fell 9.3 per cent in real terms from a 1991 high of $63.4 bn to $57.2 bn in 1995, marking the fourth successive year of decline. Indeed, ODA as a proportion of gross national product (GNP) fell for 16 of the 21 DAC members, including all G-7 countries. This led to a decrease in the combined aid effort of DAC countries from 0.30 per cent of GNP in 1994 to 0.27 per cent in 1995, the lowest ratio since 1970.

According to the OECD's 1996 *Development Cooperation Report*, diminishing ODA inflows can be explained either by donors reducing aid to more dynamic economies (such as Mauritius and Morocco) where both foreign and domestic private investment have risen, or by aid cuts to troubled countries such as Sudan and Zaire.

But IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus recently warned against the "dangerous slippage" in development aid and argued that many donor countries had been using the "fallacious alibi of budgetary savings" to make sometimes severe cuts in their ODA. He also cited US President Clinton's statement to the 1995 World Bank/IMF annual meetings that cuts to concessional aid programmes such as the International Development Association (IDA) were not required to balance the US budget.

Many donor countries have been using the "fallacious alibi of budgetary savings" to make sometimes severe cuts in their development aid, says IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus.

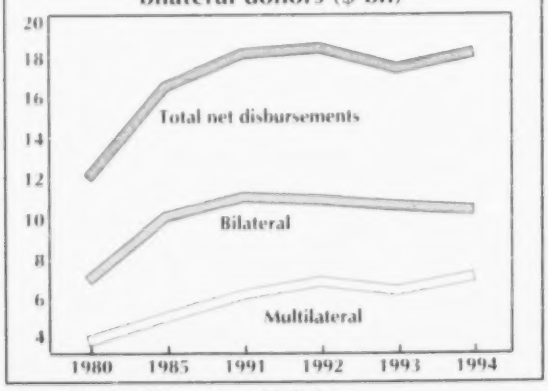
The US remains the single greatest influence on the overall declining trend of ODA, slipping from second to fourth among the 21 DAC countries in absolute dollar terms, and falling to last place in terms of its ratio of ODA to GNP. ODA from the US fell by 28 per cent in real terms, the largest decrease in absolute dollar amounts, while the 0.10 per cent ratio of ODA/GNP was its lowest since such accounting was introduced in 1950.

The Secretary-General points out that some countries, particularly Norway and Japan, "have fully adhered to the principle of additionality of aid resources to Africa as enunciated in UN-NADAF." Norway was the highest aid donor in terms of GNP in 1994, while France, the US, Germany and Japan ranked as the four biggest donors to Africa.

North Africa plays a significant role in Africa's overall aid receipts. In the 1989-94 period, the five North African countries received major shares of total bilateral ODA to Africa from France (19 per cent), Germany (23 per cent) and Japan (25 per cent), as well as an overwhelming share of US bilateral aid to Africa (56 per cent). While the overall decline in aid flows from OECD countries was significant for Africa, also significant was the fall in aid from Arab countries, of which the North African countries received 87 per cent in 1989-94. Net disbursements from Arab multilateral agencies fell from $25 mn in 1991 to -$3 mn in 1994, while Arab bilateral aid also plunged from $136 mn to $13 mn in the same period.

The Secretary-General has said that the increasingly concessional terms for ODA to sub-Saharan Africa is one positive element in the decline in aid flows. He notes that ODA has grown faster for countries with IMF and World Bank-supported adjustment programmes, a trend which "may be considered in conformity with the donors' commitment under UN-NADAF to support Africa's reform efforts." ■

Net disbursement of ODA to sub-Saharan Africa from multilateral and bilateral donors ($ bn)

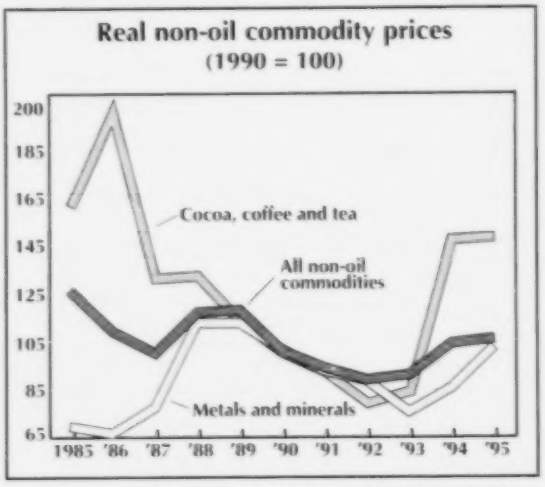


Source: UN Africa Recovery from OECD data

Commodities and trade

Higher prices for most major commodities in 1994-95 helped boost Africa's export earnings to an average $99.1 bn per year between 1991-95, a 12 per cent increase over average receipts for the previous five years. At the same time, however, Africa's continued reliance on a handful of primary commodities for the bulk of its export earnings, together with growing competition from Asian and Latin American producers in a shrinking market for many raw materials, resulted in the region's share of world trade declining from 3.1 per cent in 1990 to 2.1 per cent in 1995. The cost of this precipitous fall in market share was nearly $200 bn in potential export earnings — resources sorely needed for the continent's social and economic development.

Five years after the adoption of the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), which made diversification of commodity exports and increased local processing a priority for the continent's economic development, most



Source: UN Africa Recovery from UNCTAD, *Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin* and UN, *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics*

African countries continue to rely on the same commodities they did 30 years ago. Primary commodities accounted for approximately 75 per cent of Africa's total foreign exchange earnings over the first half of the decade, while some African countries relied on a single commodity for more than three-quarters of their total exports.

As overall export earnings for international trade soared between 1990-95, the share of primary commodities in global export volume dropped from 25.9 to 19 per cent. While numerous developing countries have been able to reap profits from increasing levels of trade by diversifying production and trading partners, Africa, for the most part, has not. According to the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the region "has been bypassed by the conspicuous transformation in commodities traded globally." Indeed, between 1990-95 the region's share in the trade of developing countries fell from 10.9 per cent to 6.4 per cent, while its share of total trade with the European Union (EU) — which accounts for 70 per cent of Africa's total trade — fell from 3.3 per cent in 1992 to 2.8 per cent in 1995.

Long-term trend of declining prices

Africa's average $99.1 bn in export earnings principally came from the sale of raw commodities such as oil — exports of which grew in value by 11.9 per cent in 1995 and now account for 60 per cent of foreign exchange earnings — as well as agricultural goods, timber and minerals. Although the long-term trend of declining commodities prices has continued, there was a sharp upturn in 1994-95. Many African countries, however, were unable to take full advantage of the higher prices due to supply difficulties, structural constraints, political instability and the lack of adequate investment in the export sector. The depreciation of the US dollar in the first half of 1995 also lessened the real value of the increases for many countries, while exporters that had pre-sold their products derived little benefit from climbing prices.

Prices for most primary commodities had slackened by mid-1996 and it is projected that they will resume their long-term decline, partly due to decreasing demand, for the remainder of the decade. According to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), average annual prices in 1984-94 were down, in real terms, for tropical beverages (by -10.4 per cent), agricultural raw materials (-1.3 per cent), vegetable oilseeds and oils (-4.8 per cent), and minerals, ores and metals (-1.5 per cent). Technological progress in the production of synthetics and other substitutes for primary commodities can be expected to further depress demand and prices.

Although Africa's exports grew by an average 5.4 per cent a year in volume terms in 1990-94, the annual unit value increase averaged less than 1 per cent. With import unit values up more than 5 per cent over the same period, the purchasing power of

exports was severely eroded. Africa's terms of trade therefore suffered further deterioration, falling an average 2.2 per cent a year.

Uruguay Round worries

Troubling many African commodities producers is how they will be affected by the coming into force of the Uruguay Round agreements on international trade. World trade is projected to increase by $210 bn annually in the post-Uruguay trade environment, 30 per cent of which will be shared by developing countries. But it is still unclear what percentage of these gains will accrue to African countries. Since Africa already faces very low or zero tariffs for many exports, the general tariff liberalization called for by the Uruguay Round is bound to lower the value of Africa's preferences and could threaten some exports.

Studies estimate that Africa initially stands to lose up to $3 bn a year due to Uruguay, mainly from hikes in import bills, budget deficits and the cost of lost preferences with the EU. The Secretary-General's report on UN-NADAF notes that although the consequences of the Round are detrimental in the short-term, in the long run, realistic exchange rates for African currencies and market-oriented policies would put it in a better position to penetrate export markets and take advantage of international trade liberalization.

Trade between African countries accounted for less than 9 per cent of the region's total trade during the first half of the 1990s, one of the lowest levels of regional trade in the world. This poor performance is due, among other reasons, to the deficiencies of Africa's roads, ports, railways, waterways and telecommunications; lack of trade financing and poor trade information mechanisms; and trade-related bottlenecks such as non-tariff barriers and stringent rules of origin. One of the biggest obstacles to increased regional trade has been the lack of diversification, which has resulted in many countries exporting the same or similar commodities.

But there has been progress in economic integration, and this will have a positive impact on the development of regional markets that could provide export alternatives for local producers as well as enable African countries to negotiate on more favorable terms with other international trading blocs. In 1993, the Abuja Treaty for the establishment of the African Economic Community came into force, and sub-regional groupings are moving ahead with plans to harmonize exchange systems and trade policies, remove trade barriers and set up common transport and communication systems.

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Regional groupings such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the recently initiated Secretariat for East African Co-operation (EAC) and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in North Africa have either embarked on or are discussing cooperation in various trade-related sectors. In Southern Africa, the integration of South Africa into the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 1994 was seen as a move towards stronger sub-regional cooperation and development. SADC currently is seeking to eliminate trade barriers within the community over the next two years and to develop a common currency by the end of the century.

Industrial development a priority

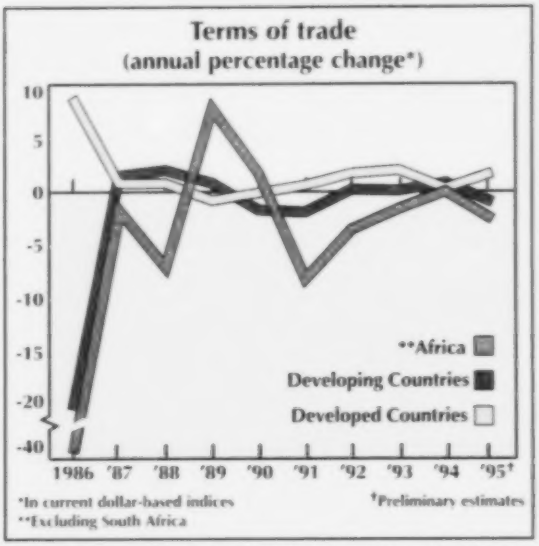
According to the Secretary-General's mid-term report on the New Agenda, industrial development will be central to the structural transformation of African economies. Countries now heavily dependent on the export of primary commodities will have to consider diversifying into more dynamic lines of activity, including the manufacturing and services sector. Vertical diversification, through increased processing, would provide more value-added to primary commodities. Horizontal diversification, through the production of a wider range of goods for the domestic and external markets, including the development of new uses for traditional commodities, would help increase job opportunities and average incomes.

Diversification will require the development of the necessary economic infrastructure, higher levels of labour skills and better access to financial resources. African countries will have to cooperate closely with financial and development institutions and will require increased levels of financial assistance in order to meet the challenges diversification will pose. Industrialized countries also will have to open up their markets to more processed goods from Africa, and find ways to give African exporters some relief from cascading tariffs (tariffs that rise according to the level of processing).

Promoting Africa's efforts in this regard is the Common Fund for Commodities, the sole intergovern-

mental organization exclusively concerned with commodity development issues and commodity development projects. The Common Fund has been active in backing a wide variety of diversification projects, in opening up new markets for existing commodities, and in promoting investment and technical assistance in these areas. While many of the projects that have been initiated through the Common Fund have been successful and show promise of sustainability, further financial resources are sorely needed to support them.

In addition to diversification, Africa also must face up to the challenges of the uncontrolled movement of primary commodity prices, which has led to severe instability in foreign exchange earnings and in balance



Source: UN Africa Recovery from *UN World Economic and Social Survey*, based on UN and IMF data

of payment positions. For developing countries in general, and African countries in particular, the collapse of commodity prices and the resulting loss in export earnings can often exacerbate already severe debt problems.

Past international commodity agreements, hurt by large fluctuations in the value of the US dollar and the setting of unrealistic price ranges and buffer stocks, have been largely ineffective. According to the ECA, commodity producers are likely to benefit from some current agreements to cut production in order to stabilize prices. The members of the International Coffee and Cocoa Organization, for example, have decided to abandon the buffer stock in favour of export retention schemes, and to keep production levels down until at least the 1998-99 crop. Such coordination and cooperation in managing the supply of primary products is crucial to stabilizing prices, especially for commodities of which Africa commands a major share on the world market.

Africa will also have to focus on lessening its dependence on the European market and on developing markets in newly industrialized countries, particularly those of East Asia. The demand for primary products is still growing in this region, and its proximity to many African countries should give Africa an advantage over Latin American exporters.

A PLAN OF ACTION FOR COMMODITIES

The African Plan of Action for Commodities, adopted in February 1996 by African ministers responsible for regional cooperation, integration and tourism meeting in Addis Ababa, addresses many of the above issues. Among the numerous measures that the Plan of Action urges African countries to take in order to ensure a wider export base and intensify regional cooperation are:

- developing export promotion programmes that support enhanced competitiveness at both the product processing and export diversification stages;
- reviewing possibilities for diversifying exports to other developing regions in order to take advantage of South-South opportunities and help diversify African markets;
- shifting industrial strategies for import substitution to an indigenous model based on the commodities sector;
- preparing programmes between and among countries for promoting commodity exports at the regional level.

Although African countries can do much on their own to meet the challenges of diversifying and expanding trade, the international community must also fulfill its own obligations. The Secretary-General's report on the New Agenda emphasizes that the 49th General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending the improvement of existing compensatory mechanisms for African trade losses and the expansion of the Common Fund for Commodities.

The resolution also calls on member states to make an initial special contribution to the diversification fund proposed when UN-NADAF was adopted. The fund would finance the preparatory phases of commodity diversification projects and programmes in African countries. The international community should take steps to implement this resolution, the report states, since Africa views the establishment of a diversification facility as a litmus test of international commitment to implement the New Agenda. ■

Democratization

Over the first half of the 1990s, Africa's political landscape has undergone a remarkable transformation, with the majority of countries in sub-Saharan Africa exchanging authoritarian, one-party states and military regimes for relatively democratic, multiparty systems of government.

Whereas in the late 1980s, there were only a handful of democracies on the continent, by early 1995, 31 of the 42 sub-Saharan countries that did not already have multiparty systems held democratic presidential or parliamentary elections. Fourteen of those resulted in the defeat of an incumbent and a peaceful transition to democratic rule. In 1996 and 1997, close to half of African countries will hold elections at the national or local level.

Perhaps no group of countries has undergone as great a metamorphosis over the past five years as Southern Africa. Once riven by apartheid, civil war and destabilization, the sub-region is now at peace, governed by democratically elected leaders, with the potential to act as a growth pole for the entire continent. The successful transition to majority rule in Namibia in 1990 and in South Africa in 1994, elections in Mozambique and Angola after decades of war, and ballot box victories over entrenched one-party states in Zambia and Malawi have provided inspiration to countries in the region and beyond.

Concomitant with the burgeoning of democratic systems of government has come an explosive growth in the mass media. Once dominated by state-owned newspapers and government broadcasting, most African countries are now home to a plethora of private newspapers and radio stations which have enabled an unprecedented public airing of political issues. In Malawi, for example, the number of newspapers grew from one in 1993 to more than 30 in the period before the 1994 election. Ghana has seen a fivefold expansion in its print media between 1990 and 1995, as has Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and many other countries.

In addition, organs of civil society — from trade unions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to human rights groups and political parties — have blossomed across the continent, becoming active participants, in some cases for the first time, in the political processes of their countries.

Despite the phenomenal growth in political pluralism, however, much work remains to be done to entrench the practice of democracy and improve on governance. Indeed, the experience of the past five years has shown that elections are a necessary, but insufficient condition for the establishment of a vibrant democracy.

Despite the phenomenal growth in political pluralism, however, much work remains to be done to entrench the practice of democracy and improve on governance.

In some cases, elections have served to legitimize incumbent rulers through a balloting process so manipulated as to render the results meaningless. And despite the expansion in the media and civil society, journalists in some countries continue to face censorship, fines, and prison terms, as do human rights activists and political opponents.

The UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) recognizes that democratization must be strengthened and the quality of governance improved in order to facilitate greater participation of the people in the development process. Beyond simply holding elections, an institutional framework must be created which guarantees the rule of law, a strong and participatory civil society, a free press, and an independent judiciary, as well as providing for a strong partnership between governments, the private sector and NGOs.

Needless to say, none of this can be achieved in conditions of conflict. UN-NADAF therefore calls for the strengthening of peace initiatives by African countries so as to create the conditions for development and to facilitate the redirection of resources from military and security purposes to the continent's socio-economic advancement.

During the 1990s, regional initiatives such as the Organization of African Unity Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution have contributed to the peace process in Angola, Comoros, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mozambique, and to some extent in Burundi and Rwanda. The Economic Community of West African States' Monitoring Group in Liberia also continues to work toward a peaceful solution in that country. And other initiatives are being launched by African NGOs focusing on issues of governance, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. ■

Country profiles

	Population		GNP per capita ($)		GDP ($bn)	GDP annual growth	Total debt ($bn)		Debt service as % of exports		Food production per capita (1979-81=100)		Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Life expectancy (years)		Adult literacy		Primary school enrolment (%; gross*)		Access to safe water (%)	
	1995 (million)	1991-95 annual growth rate (%)	1991	1995	1995	1991-95 (%)	1991	1994	1991	1994	1992 (1)	1995 (2)	1991 (3)	1994 (4)	1991 (3)	1994 (4)	% of adults (5)	% of adult females (5)	1980 (3)	1993 (4)	1991 (4)	1994 (4)
Algeria	28.6	2.2	2186	2001	57.2	0.4	28.6	30.0	68.4	55.3	124	125	50	54	65	67	41	55	96	99	71	79
Angola	11.1	3.1	1079	831	9.2	-2.2	8.8	10.6	5.8	2.5	79	69	170	170	46	46	29	43	93	91	35	32
Benin	5.2	1.9	408	441	2.3	3.5	1.3	1.6	6.3	8.2	117	113	89	85	47	47	19	31	66	59	54	50
Botswana	1.4	2.4	2806	2965	4.2	3.5	0.5	0.7	3.4	3.9	61	63	62	42	60	65	55	67	115	116	53	93
Burkina Faso	10.4	2.3	300	325	3.4	4.0	1.0	1.1	9.2	20.7	129	126	120	89	48	47	7	17	36	38	69	78
Burundi	6.3	2.3	219	228	1.4	3.2	1.0	1.1	31.5	25.2	89	81	108	106	49	50	19	32	69	69	38	70
Cameroon	13.3	2.3	1015	813	10.8	-2.2	6.3	7.3	20.5	16.5	75	76	66	69	54	56	44	57	101	101	22	50
Cape Verde	0.4	2.4	1069	1069	0.4	2.6	0.2	0.2	9.2	12.0	107	90	n.a.	n.a.	67	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	71	n.a.
CAR	3.4	2.1	499	463	1.6	0.6	0.9	0.9	8.2	12.4	93	100	106	103	50	49	41	51	64	69	12	18
Chad	6.4	2.3	242	237	1.5	1.8	0.6	0.8	4.4	8.3	103	92	125	119	47	47	29	43	57	65	n.a.	24
Comoros	0.7	3.0	450	423	0.3	1.7	0.2	0.2	5.1	5.1	82	81	n.a.	n.a.	55	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Congo	2.6	2.4	1261	1113	2.9	-0.1	4.7	5.3	23.4	51.5	91	76	83	82	54	51	59	69	n.a.	n.a.	38	38
Côte d'Ivoire	14.4	3.0	790	734	10.6	1.5	18.9	18.5	39.1	37.4	89	89	93	90	53	51	24	34	70	70	18	72
Djibouti	0.5	2.4	1048	961	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.2	4.6	2.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	48	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	47	n.a.
Egypt	58.5	1.8	906	911	53.3	1.9	40.7	33.3	16.7	14.6	118	125	62	41	60	63	34	48	97	102	89	80
Eq. Guinea	0.4	2.1	464	425	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3	7.5	3.0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	47	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ethiopia	58.0	2.5	116	101	5.9	-0.4	3.5	5.1	25.4	11.7	19	n.a.	125	117	46	47	21	31	38	22	19	25
Eritrea	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	117	n.a.	50	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Gabon	1.2	2.7	4870	4400	6.0	0.6	3.8	4.0	6.8	10.4	81	75	97	91	53	53	45	67	n.a.	n.a.	68	68
Gambia	1.0	2.1	351	350	0.3	2.0	0.4	0.4	16.5	19.0	90	69	n.a.	129	44	45	20	34	n.a.	69	77	48
Ghana	17.5	2.4	423	464	8.1	4.3	4.2	5.3	26.9	24.6	108	130	84	76	55	56	46	59	75	74	57	56
Guinea	6.7	2.5	486	515	3.5	3.7	2.6	3.1	16.0	16.3	96	107	138	131	44	44	18	32	34	42	32	55
Guinea-Bissau	1.1	1.8	265	272	0.3	2.3	0.7	0.8	47.4	12.7	105	112	143	137	43	43	37	50	59	60	25	53
Kenya	27.9	2.7	363	349	9.7	1.9	7.0	7.3	32.2	33.3	100	81	52	61	60	56	62	72	94	96	30	53
Lesotho	2.0	2.0	330	344	0.7	2.9	0.4	0.6	4.7	4.5	55	46	82	106	57	60	57	68	n.a.	106	48	52
Liberia	3.0	3.4	699	390	1.2	-8.0	2.0	3.0	n.a.	n.a.	63	53	131	144	54	55	18	34	34	40	55	46
Libya	5.4	2.8	6394	5609	30.3	0.2	4.3	4.8	8.4	10.4	96	54	72	64	62	63	54	69	n.a.	n.a.	94	97

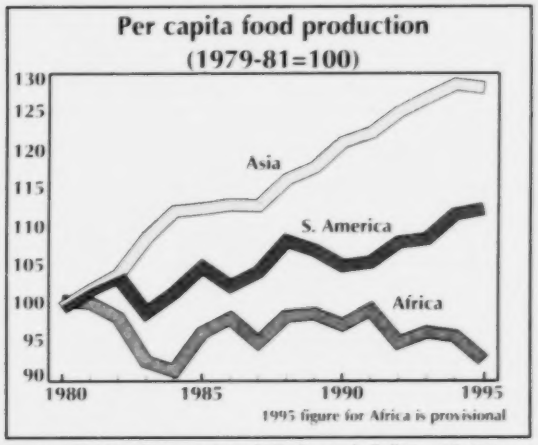
	Population		GNP per capita ($)		GDP ($bn)	GDP annual growth	Total debt ($bn)		Debt service as % of exports		Food production per capita (1979-81=100)		Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Life expectancy (years)		Adult literacy		Primary school enrolment (%; gross*)		Access to safe water (%)	
	1995 (million)	1991-95 annual growth rate (%)	1991	1995	1995	1991-95 (%)	1991	1993	1991	1994	1992	1993	1991	1994	1991	1994	% of adults	% of adult females	1990	1991	1991	1994
											(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(5)	(3)	(4)	(3)	(4)
Madagascar	14.2	2.7	237	229	3.2	2.0	3.7	4.1	34.3	7.6	82	80	113	100	55	56	73	81	92	79	22	29
Malawi	11.3	2.5	201	174	2.0	-0.4	1.7	2.0	27.9	17.5	56	60	144	140	48	46	37	53	67	66	56	47
Mali	10.8	2.6	254	250	2.7	2.3	2.5	2.9	4.9	27.3	91	89	108	119	45	46	17	25	23	26	38	37
Mauritania	2.3	2.3	511	530	1.2	3.1	2.3	2.3	16.7	23.1	79	87	120	114	47	51	24	36	51	63	66	66
Mauritius	1.1	0.8	2449	2887	3.3	4.2	1.0	1.4	9.4	6.9	114	103	22	19	70	70	75	80	103	n.a.	95	99
Morocco	28.3	1.9	1022	974	27.5	1.0	21.2	22.5	27.6	32.1	102	105	72	46	62	63	26	39	68	69	61	55
Mozambique	16.4	2.5	90	93	1.5	3.1	4.7	5.5	12.3	23.0	61	85	170	161	48	46	19	36	68	60	24	33
Namibia	1.7	2.5	1544	1449	2.4	1.3	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	65	70	73	62	58	59	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	124	n.a.	57
Niger	9.1	2.7	318	281	2.6	0.2	1.7	1.6	47.5	26.0	77	78	127	191	46	46	5	12	28	29	n.a.	54
Nigeria	127.0	2.5	310	305	38.7	2.2	34.5	33.4	25.2	19.6	125	153	86	114	52	50	n.a.	n.a.	70	70	48	40
Rwanda	8.3	2.8	343	163	1.4	-11.4	0.8	1.0	17.5	11.8	78	63	112	80	50	47	44	55	69	77	64	66
Sao Tome	0.1	1.9	446	421	0.06	0.7	0.2	0.3	25.0	25.0	60	69	n.a.	n.a.	66	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Senegal	8.4	2.2	762	726	6.1	1.2	3.6	3.7	19.7	11.3	96	110	82	60	48	49	19	29	58	59	54	52
Seychelles	0.07	0.8	5028	5446	0.4	2.5	0.2	0.2	9.3	6.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	70	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	100	n.a.
Sierra Leone	4.7	2.2	204	176	0.8	-0.8	1.3	1.4	9.1	10.0	79	76	146	164	42	39	14	27	53	48	42	34
Somalia	10.2	2.7	69	42	0.4	-7.1	2.4	2.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	77	125	125	46	47	14	25	15	12	37	37
South Africa	42.7	2.0	2717	2581	110.3	0.9	n.a.	16.6	n.a.	5.4	n.a.	65	n.a.	52	n.a.	63	79	80	n.a.	109	n.a.	70
Sudan	29.0	2.2	396	351	10.2	-0.2	16.0	17.0	4.0	0.2	83	121	102	74	51	53	23	41	50	52	21	60
Swaziland	0.9	2.2	1179	1198	1.0	2.5	0.3	0.2	3.5	2.5	76	80	n.a.	n.a.	57	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	53	n.a.
Tanzania	30.7	2.7	99	92	2.8	1.2	6.5	7.4	24.1	20.4	74	77	112	106	54	52	50	63	64	68	56	50
Togo	4.1	2.6	418	363	1.5	-0.3	1.4	1.5	7.5	7.6	97	84	88	83	54	55	30	46	103	100	71	63
Tunisia	8.9	1.7	1670	1874	16.7	4.0	8.3	9.3	22.7	18.4	115	98	45	28	67	68	47	60	115	120	68	99
Uganda	20.4	2.4	213	234	4.8	4.3	2.8	3.5	63.8	44.2	91	102	110	111	52	45	44	57	70	71	20	34
Zaire	43.8	2.6	210	152	6.7	-3.8	10.7	12.3	7.5	4.5	92	85	117	120	53	52	61	72	78	n.a.	34	27
Zambia	9.4	2.3	469	432	4.0	0.6	7.3	6.7	40.6	31.2	71	79	112	114	54	49	65	74	95	97	59	50
Zimbabwe	11.5	2.4	694	638	7.4	0.7	3.4	4.4	27.6	26.9	43	53	61	57	60	54	77	83	125	119	n.a.	77

***Source:** All data ECA Secretariat except:*
(1) FAO; ECA Secretariat 1993
(2) FAO; ECA Secretariat 1996
(3) ECA data on the basis of UNICEF, **The State of the World's Children, 1993** *and UNDP,* **Human Development Report 1993**
(4) ECA data on the basis of UNICEF, **The State of the World's Children, 1996** *and UNDP,* **Human Development Report 1995**
(5) 1990, last data available

**The gross enrolment ratio is the total number of children enrolled in a schooling level – whether or not they belong in that level's age group – as a percentage of all children in that age group.*

Agriculture and food

Agricultural and rural development, and especially the achievement of food security, are among the main priorities of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF). With 60 per cent of Africa's economically active population employed in agriculture, and with the continent's cereal deficit projected to nearly double from



Source: UN Africa Recovery from *FAO Quarterly Bulletin of Statistics, 1995*

27 mn to 50 mn tonnes over the next 15 years, the New Agenda has emphasized Africa's commitment to further improving agricultural policies. These improvements would aim to enhance productivity; establish reliable marketing networks, credit systems and adequate storage facilities; and ensure the provision of necessary inputs to food producers — especially to women farmers, who account for the bulk of Africa's food production and processing.

There have been significant improvements in agricultural policies in many African countries. But overall, production on the continent has risen only moderately, lagging behind population growth and thus reflecting greater food insecurity.

Over the 1990-95 period, agricultural production in Africa grew annually by an average of 1.5 per cent. This was a significant slowdown from the growth rates in 1985-89, which averaged 3.5 per cent annually.

Total annual cereal production in Africa averaged 87.3 mn tonnes in 1990-94, a 9.7 per cent increase over the 1985-89 average. Most of this increase, however, was accounted for by North African countries, with sub-Saharan Africa's cereal production only 4.3 per cent higher in the 1990s.

In per capita terms, food production in sub-Saharan Africa has actually fallen, the only major developing region to register such a decline. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) index of per capita food production in sub-Saharan Africa, which stood at 100 for 1979-81, had declined to 95.4 by 1990 and to 84.3 by 1994. In 1996, it is estimated that some 217 million people in Africa are chronically undernourished, the vast bulk of them in 17 low-income food-deficit countries. Based on current food production and population growth trends, the number of undernourished Africans is projected to rise to some 300 million by the year 2010.

The slow progress in increasing food output in Africa is due in large part to agriculture's continued vulnerability to the weather, as well as to the numerous wars and civil conflicts that have disrupted farming and caused huge refugee movements. Consequently, food aid to Africa has stayed high, averaging some 5.5 mn tonnes a year over 1990-93. Africa's cereal imports reached 34 mn tonnes in 1993/94, compared to 23.4 mn tonnes in 1980/81.

On the positive side, there has been a marked change in the overall approach to agriculture, especially in comparison with earlier decades when farmers received few incentives to produce. Wholesale and retail prices of agricultural commodities have been deregulated in many African countries, leading to improved producer prices for numerous food and export crops. Many government marketing monopolies have been abolished, giving greater scope to the private sector. Agricultural extension services are being consolidated into more efficient national systems, with special efforts to recruit women extension agents and develop services especially designed to assist women farmers.

Systems for supplying agricultural inputs are being overhauled, although fertilizer, improved seeds and other key inputs often remain too expensive for many small-scale farmers. To improve farmers' access to financing, rural credit institutions are being expanded and strengthened in many countries, while farmer-managed savings and credit cooperatives are growing. By the end of 1994 there were over 5,000 registered local credit unions throughout Africa, operating in over 30 countries, with more than 5.5 million members altogether.

New food security strategies and projects have

been launched in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya and Madagascar, among other countries, involving food-for-work and the provision of better seeds, livestock care, credit and physical infrastructure. The Mali-Sud project has successfully stimulated food crops, alongside cotton, in regions of Mali that previously had to import food. West Africa, overall, has shown remarkable improvements in food security, with the index of food production per capita (1979-81=100) reaching 130.2 for the sub-region in 1995. North Africa (including Sudan) came next, at 116.6, with Central Africa at 80.1, Southern Africa at 67.3 and East Africa at 53.5.

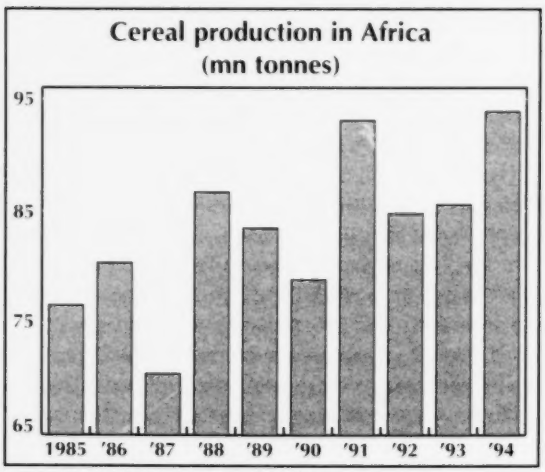
Food security and increased attention to rural infrastructure and farming inputs are becoming more central elements in African countries' agricultural development programmes. During the mid-to-late 1980s, however, agricultural reform was determined largely by the macroeconomic priorities of the structural adjustment programmes supported by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. These brought a heavy reliance on price incentives and a sharp reduction in state intervention. While some farmers were able to take advantage of the new incentives, production overall did not grow as much as had been anticipated because many farmers suffered from serious constraints: lack of resources to cultivate more land, no credit to finance purchases of higher-priced seeds and fertilizers, poor roads and marketing facilities, and the disappearance of essential state services. More recent approaches to agricultural reform emphasize reducing such constraints, so that farmers are able to respond to market signals. This includes investing in rural infrastructure, alleviating poverty, improving education and health and addressing environmental and natural resource degradation.

There have been significant improvements in agricultural policies in many African countries. But overall, production on the continent has risen only moderately, lagging behind population growth and thus reflecting greater food insecurity.

There is also greater recognition of the need to make essential inputs more available and affordable, in order to raise Africa's low levels of agricultural productivity. For the period 1993-95, cereal yields in sub-Saharan Africa were only about 41 per cent of those in Asia and 44 per cent of those in Latin America. However, research trials have found that much higher yields are possible in Africa even with existing seed and crop varieties, indicating that the main reasons for Africa's productivity gap include insufficient fertilizer use and irrigation.

As of 1993, fertilizer use in sub-Saharan Africa averaged only around 11 kilogrammes per hectare. With North Africa included, the continental average still reached only 21 kg/ha, compared with 67 kg/ha in Latin America and 129 kg/ha in Asia. There is also considerable scope to expand irrigation, thus making farming in Africa less dependent on uncertain rainfall. In 1993, irrigated land as a percentage of total cultivated area was estimated at 5 per cent for sub-Saharan Africa, compared with 14 per cent in Latin America and 37 per cent in Asia. Not all cultivable land is suitable for irrigation, but it is estimated that some 42 mn hectares in Africa have the potential to be irrigated, of which only 13.8 mn currently are.

Expanding markets for farmers' produce is also considered vital for encouraging greater production. Most national markets in Africa are small, however, while the world market prices for many of Africa's key agricultural exports have been on a downward trend over the past decade, despite a surge in commodity prices in 1994 and 1995. One solution is to strengthen regional markets within Africa. Following the signing of a treaty in Abuja in 1991 to establish an African Economic Community, the Organization of African Unity and the FAO have been working with African governments to develop a Common African Agricultural Programme (CAAP) aimed at integrating African food and agricultural markets. ■



Source: UN Africa Recovery from FAO data

Environment & development

From well before the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, African countries have been emphasizing that issues of environmental protection and economic development must be addressed together. As the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) noted, "Africa is fully convinced that the problems of environment and development should be tackled in an integrated and balanced manner," a point reiterated in the African Common Position on Environment and Development submitted to the Rio summit. Among these problems:

Drylands have been expanding through desertification and now cover nearly half of Africa, directly affecting some 300 million people.

Eighty per cent of pasture and range areas are affected by soil degradation and erosion.

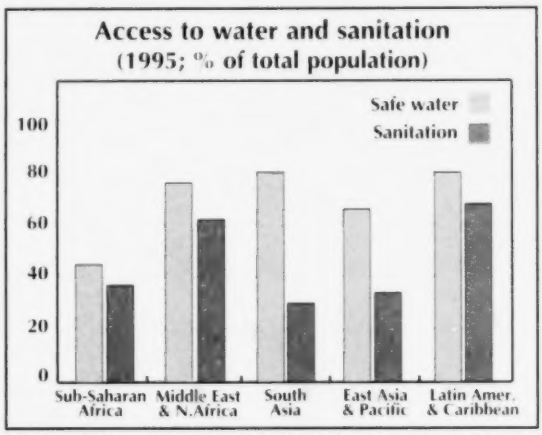
By the year 2000, soil erosion will have reduced land productivity in Africa by 25 per cent from its 1975 level. In the Sahel region, where soil erosion and vegetation loss are especially severe, land degradation results in an estimated $26 mn in economic losses annually.

Africa loses 0.6 per cent, or more than 3.2 mn hectares, of its total natural forest land every year. Some 10-20 per cent of this loss is due to commercial logging, and the remainder to environmental causes, cutting of trees for fuelwood or clearing land for agriculture. Reforestation projects replace only about 5 per cent of annual losses.

As of 1994, an estimated 54 per cent of Africa's population (or 380 million people) lacked safe drinking water, while 66 per cent (462 million) did not have access to sanitation. In the rural areas, the proportions stood at 63 per cent and 76 per cent, respectively.

Based on current population growth rates, water availability per capita in Africa will fall to half of current levels within the next 25 years.

These realities have determined the specific actions that African countries have taken, as well as the priorities they have sought to advance within the various international negotiations on sustainable development issues. Among the priorities cited by the African Common Position were the attainment of food self-sufficiency and security, greater energy self-sufficiency, rational management of forests, the reversal of desertification, drought monitoring, efficient and equitable use of water resources, management of bio-diversity and bio-technology, development of science and technology, and poverty eradication. And reflecting concern over the "export" of industrial pollution from developed countries to Africa, the Organization of African Unity adopted a convention in 1991 prohibiting the dumping or transporting of toxic and other hazardous wastes in Africa.



Source: UN Africa Recovery from UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children, 1996*

Desertification, one of the African continent's foremost concerns, hardly featured in the preparatory meetings leading up the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio. But at the conference itself, African countries succeeded in winning agreement that a specific convention on desertification would be negotiated. Such a convention was signed in 1994, setting out an ambitious agenda to reverse land degradation in affected regions.

At the national level, 21 African countries so far have completed the preparation of National Environmental Action Plans (NEAPs), and others have various programmes to manage and safeguard natural resources. As of 1994, there were 723 protected natural areas across the continent, in virtually every country, covering some 150 mn hectares of land, forests and wildlife habitats. Hundreds of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) devoted to sustainable development and environmental issues also have emerged on the continent in recent years. African governments and donor institutions are increasingly working with such NGOs and other community groups to combat environmental degradation at the local level, including by building terraces, planting village woodlots, fixing sand dunes, restoring soils and disseminating more sustainable farming methods. ■

Population

Africa's population growth rate remains the highest in the world, although there are signs that it may be declining very slightly. The continent's total population, estimated at 748 million in 1996, is expected to exceed 830 million by the end of the decade and to double to nearly 1.5 billion by the year 2025.

Such a rapidly growing population, noted the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), places tremendous strains on Africa's development process. Food production, employment, shelter and basic social services have had difficulty keeping up with the expansion. High rates of rural-to-urban migration compound the problems in Africa's fast-growing cities. In response, African governments are increasingly recognizing the importance of integrating population policies more closely in their overall development strategies. But the challenges remain enormous.

Africa's annual population growth rate stood at 2.9 per cent in 1995, according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and will likely average 2.7 per cent over 1995-2000. Even this projected lower rate will remain far above the rates for Latin America (1.7 per cent) or Asia (1.5 per cent).

Based on figures of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, in only 17 African countries did average GDP growth rates exceed average population growth rates over 1991-95, while populations grew more rapidly than economic production in 35 countries.

By 1995, some 34 per cent of Africans were living in cities and towns, compared to 27 per cent in 1980. UNFPA projects that Africa's urban population will grow 4.3 per cent annually over 1995-2000, much faster than the total population.

On average, a woman in sub-Saharan Africa will give birth to six or more children and in North Africa to four or more; in Asia and Latin America the average is three.

Only 15 per cent of women in Africa use modern contraceptives, compared to 49 per cent in Latin America and 54 per cent in Asia.

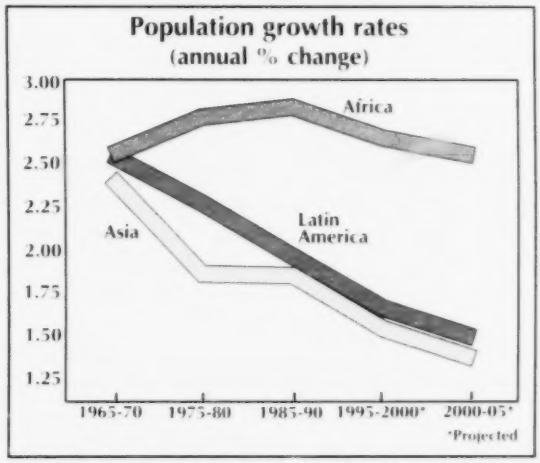
African women face a 1-in-20 risk of dying during pregnancy or childbirth.

Faced with these daunting realities, there has been a turnaround in official approaches to issues of population in Africa. A decade ago, nearly two-thirds of African governments viewed their population growth rates as satisfactory, and only three countries had explicit national population policies. Currently more than two-thirds of African governments view with concern their population growth rates. As of 1995, 26 African countries had adopted specific population policies, while another dozen or so were in the process of doing so.

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt, reflected a new international consensus: that population issues can be effectively tackled only by combatting poverty, involving local communities, improving maternal and child health and raising the socio-economic status of women.

In line with the ICPD's Programme of Action, almost all African countries are now integrating family planning counselling and services into their public health programmes. Among 41 sub-Saharan countries that responded to a recent survey, 29 reported significant progress in expanding their family planning service networks and 22 have reported increases in their contraceptive prevalence rates. Public education campaigns about the risks of HIV/AIDS have contributed to the increase. Improving women's and girls' education also is now viewed as a key component to progress on population issues, a point reinforced by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995.

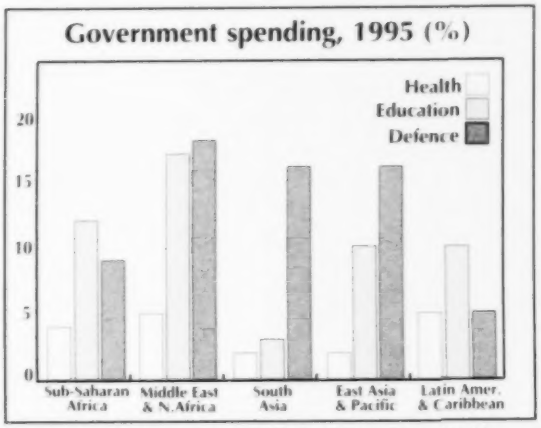
Analysts already foresee the beginning of a "demographic transition" in about 10 African countries, with lower infant mortality and fertility levels contributing to a significant slowing in their population growth rates. ■



Source: UN Africa Recovery from UN, *World Population Prospects: The 1994 Revision*, 1995.

The human dimension

In 1996, mid-way through the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, a child born in sub-Saharan Africa is more likely to be malnourished than to go to primary school and is as likely to die before the age of five as to enter secondary school. Behind these compelling facts lies the crux of the challenge facing Africa for the remainder of the decade: an urgent need to redouble efforts to develop



Source: UN Africa Recovery from UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 1996*

the continent's human resources as key to both reduction of poverty and long-term growth.

Africa remains caught in a vicious circle: partly due to poor health, education and nutrition, rapid economic growth has been impossible, and without economic growth, resources to invest in human development have been insufficient. The damage wrought by decades of economic crisis is visible in today's deteriorating health and education infrastructures. It is also apparent in the cost to society of preventable deaths and loss in human potential, and in contributions to development foregone for lack of education and skills.

The picture that emerges is as follows:

Only about one-half of school entrants in grade one in sub-Saharan Africa currently finish grade five, and at the primary and secondary levels more than 80 million boys and girls are not in school.

About 170 million people — a third of the sub-region's population — do not get enough to eat; about 23 million children are malnourished and 16 per cent of babies are underweight.

There is only one doctor for every 18,000 people in the sub-region, compared to 1 for every 1,000 in Latin America, and 1 for every 390 in industrialized countries.

The sub-region has the world's highest maternal mortality rate, 980 per 100,000 live births, as compared to 266 in North Africa and 36 in Europe.

To its credit, Africa has made measurable social progress in key areas: average life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa continues on an upward trend, from 40 in 1960, to 50 in 1987, and 52 in 1993. Adult literacy has more than doubled, from 27 per cent to 55 per cent over the last two decades. The infant mortality rate has fallen from 167 deaths per 1,000 live births three decades ago to 103 in 1987 and 93 today.

The five countries of North Africa — Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Egypt — have achieved "medium" human development according to the human development index devised by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), consistently scoring higher than their neighbours to the south in standard measures of education, health and social welfare.

But for every gain, there have been setbacks or stagnation. Of the 48 countries in the world which rank "low" in human development, 37 are in sub-Saharan Africa. At current slow rates of improvement, countries like Côte d'Ivoire, where in the 1990s, primary enrolment continues to decline after growing steadily from the 1960s to 1979, may require 65 years to attain a level of human development to match industrial countries. Those even further behind, such as Mozambique and Niger, may take more than two centuries to catch up, according to UNDP.

Health and education in crisis

Africa's social sector has remained under great pressure in the 1990s primarily due to major cutbacks in public expenditure on education and health under the weight of economic instability and structural adjustment. Many governments have been prompted to introduce user fees for schooling or social services previously offered free of charge, with the result that the poor often go without health care and must sacrifice their children's education.

Problems of efficiency, equity and coverage abound. Public expenditure in the health sector rarely exceeds an average of 5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), or $10 per capita per year, and is more likely to be allocated to curative services in urban hospitals than to preventive and primary care.

In many countries, more than 50 per cent of the

population has no access to modern health facilities. Another 54 per cent has no access to safe drinking water and 66 per cent lacks sanitation — services that could prevent the spread of some diseases. The impact of weak preventive health care is most severe on the continent's children, who continue to fall ill or die most often from preventable and/or treatable afflictions — acute respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria and measles — in addition to protein-energy and micronutrient malnutrition.

Most diarrhoeal diseases, for example, are treatable with inexpensive oral rehydration therapy (ORT). But while 16 countries have increased their ORT use rate by 30 percentage points or more over the last decade, recent data indicates that the ORT use rate in sub-Saharan Africa is about 57 per cent, compared to the use rate of 80 per cent by the year 2000 recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Outbreaks of diphtheria and measles, as well as pertussis, or whooping cough, continue to afflict the continent's children. The latter two illnesses can lead to acute respiratory infections, including pneumonia — the single largest childhood killer. But sub-Saharan Africa's immunization rates are below targets set by WHO for the mid-1990s, and significantly below the global average, particularly in rural areas and in countries in serious economic crisis or civil strife.

There are, however, improvements: today, about half the children of the sub-region are immunized, compared with only 20 per cent in the early 1980s. Tunisia and Egypt have reached the goal of 90 per cent measles immunization by the year 2000, and Benin, Guinea and Uganda have raised the level of measles immunization by more than 25 percentage points between 1988 and 1994.

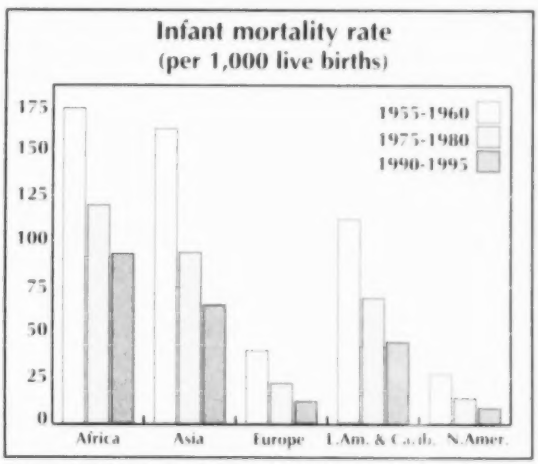
Guinea worm, a parasitic infection, has been reduced by 95 per cent and could be totally eradicated before the end of the decade thanks to the efforts of a worldwide coalition including UNICEF, WHO, and the US-based Carter Center. The World Bank and WHO are also working to eradicate onchocerciasis, or river blindness, from the remaining 16 African countries in which it is confined. These two campaigns demonstrate what can be achieved by targeted interventions — with the support of Africa's development partners — at a time when national budgets are not meeting even basic health needs.

Africa has made measurable gains in such key areas as life expectancy, adult literacy and infant mortality. But for every gain, there have been setbacks or stagnation and the social sector remains under great pressure.

Malaria remains a major cause of death and incapacitation in Africa. Yet its negative impact on development is being surpassed by that of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which causes AIDS. Over the past five years, progress has been made in introducing epidemiological surveillance systems, in slowing HIV's spread in some communities by successful prevention campaigns, and in community-based responses to the epidemic. However, by killing men and women between the ages of 15 and 45, their most productive years, the disease is taking a devastating toll, from the level of the household to the national economy.

More than 13 million people are living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa, two-thirds of the global total, and 50 per cent of the 7,500 new infections that occur daily worldwide are in the region. Particularly hard hit are Africa's women, who number close to 8 million out of the 10 million women worldwide living with HIV. They have transmitted the virus to as many as one million children, either in the womb, during childbirth or through breast-feeding.

Many of Africa's health problems, which are exacerbated by emergencies such as drought, famine and armed conflict, are linked to inadequate access to primary and secondary education, among other factors. Since the 1990 Jomtien Conference on Education for All, most regions in the world have made progress in expanding educational opportunity — with the exception of Africa, where declining enrolment ratios

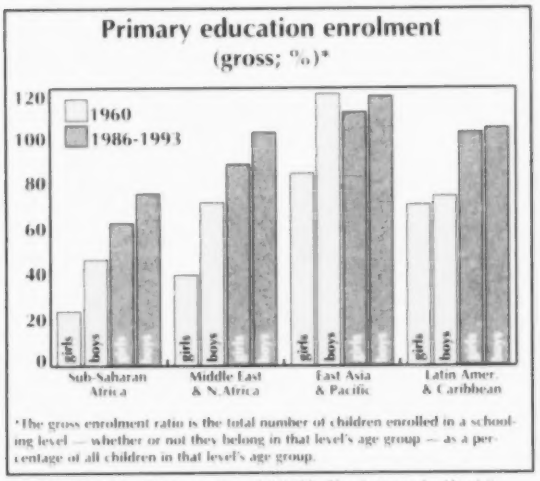


Source: UN Africa Recovery from UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children, 1996*

evident during the crisis years of the 1980s have not been reversed.

Public expenditure on education in sub-Saharan Africa is not only the lowest in the world — $28 per capita, compared with $49 in other developing regions — but also disproportionately skewed in favour of higher education to the detriment of primary education and basic literacy. Gross enrolment ratios at the primary level are actually declining, a trend expected to continue at least until the year 2000. After having increased from 50 per cent in 1970 to 74 per cent in 1982, the ratio was 69 per cent in 1987 and fell further to 67 per cent in 1993. No other region has ever experienced such a setback, although the number of children in primary school has quadrupled since 1960.

Expanding numbers of school entrants, coupled with expenditure cutbacks, have caused a near collapse of educational infrastructure. This situation is compounded by high rates of attrition and repetition, a loss of qualified teachers and declining standards. In



*The gross enrolment ratio is the total number of children enrolled in a schooling level — whether or not they belong in that level's age group — as a percentage of all children in that level's age group.

Source: UN Africa Recovery from UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 1996*

many countries, there is practically no funding from the central government for primary education, except for teacher salaries and allowances.

A particular problem in sub-Saharan Africa is the fact that 50 per cent of school-age girls, a total of 36 million, are out of school, compared with an average 18.6 per cent in North Africa. Even when the same number of boys and girls enroll in first grade, 50 per cent of girls drop out by fourth grade. Sixty-four per cent leave school before they become fully literate. The primary school completion rate for girls is only 34 per cent, and only 10 per cent of girls, compared to 36 per cent of boys, attend secondary school in the sub-region. Four times as many boys as girls continue to the tertiary level.

This situation persists despite the widespread recognition of the catalytic effect on development of girls' education, which is closely linked to fewer maternal and child deaths, better child health and nutrition, later marriage age, higher rates of contraceptive use and reduced fertility, as well as to wider economic opportunities and improved agricultural production. Non-formal education and literacy programmes have also not grown fast enough to make up for the shortfalls in the formal educational system. The number of illiterate adults in the sub-region continues to increase and is projected to reach 146.8 million by the year 2000.

Challenges for the future

UN-NADAF will continue to emphasize improvements in basic health care and education among the key priorities for the remainder of the decade. This will require some reordering of budgetary allocations and shifts in policy orientation. At the 1995 World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, the "20/20 Initiative" received some support. This was a call for developing countries to increase the proportion of their budgets allocated to human development from 13 to at least 20 per cent, and for industrialized countries to raise the proportion of their aid for the same purpose from 7 to 20 per cent.

African governments have begun taking steps of their own: some have introduced social safety nets, while others are waiving user fees for primary health and education services for the poor and for children under five. In Ethiopia, Mali, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, efforts have been made to reduce military expenditures in order to reallocate resources to the social sectors. And since the 1990 World Summit for Children, 33 African countries have finalized national programmes of action for children, and a further 12 are in the draft or preparatory phase.

Building on the UN-NADAF framework, the UN System-wide Special Initiative on Africa plans to devote 85 per cent of an estimated $25 bn in cumulative resources over the next decade on improvements in basic health and education. It will concentrate on reform of the health sector to strengthen the capacity of health systems and communities to reduce the main causes of morbidity and mortality, including malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and childhood illnesses. It will also focus resources on increasing access to basic education, particularly for girls and women. ■

NGOs

One of the notable features of the UN-NADAF period has been the dramatic rise in profile of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), whose influence has grown due to their resourcefulness, their flexibility and their work at the grassroots level. Against a background of persistent economic problems, food insecurity and resurgent conflicts, NGOs have played an increasingly dynamic role in such areas as health and nutrition, education and the democratization process. NGOs are also among the most prominent advocates of participatory development, a concept now more widely accepted by governmental and intergovernmental bodies.

NGOs have been effective in reaching specific social groups such as women, refugees and the poor, especially during emergency situations, noted UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in a 1993 speech to the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development: "Giving greater scope to NGOs in such fields can bring development funds to where they will be most effectively used."

"Giving greater scope to NGOs can bring development funds to where they will be most effectively used," noted UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

While total official development assistance is declining, bilateral and multilateral institutions are increasingly channeling a growing portion through NGOs. According to *The Reality of Aid, 1996*, an independent review of international aid, NGOs contributed over $7 bn to developing countries in grants in 1994, equivalent to 12 per cent of ODA.

NGOs PLAY KEY ROLE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Across Africa, NGOs are active in programmes that are vital to the success of UN-NADAF, including income generation for rural women, food security and environmental protection. NGOs also provide early-warning information on potential conflicts as well as distributing emergency relief to displaced and refugee populations and facilitating post-conflict recovery.

NGOs have helped focus attention on the shortcomings of some development policies and have consistently pushed for changes in the design and implementation of development programmes, emphasizing the need for greater participation by African countries and people. They have been especially vocal on the adverse effects of World Bank/IMF-supported structural adjustment programmes on poor people.

There is now an international consensus on the important role of civil society organizations, including NGOs, in poverty reduction and sustainable development. In this context, the World Bank has increased its commitment to working with NGOs and now holds consultations with them on some aspects of its work, including country assistance strategies.

Many NGOs have had a longstanding consultative relationship with the UN and its agencies. The UN has also been facilitating greater participation by NGOs in its official forums. For example, the number of NGOs accredited to the major UN conferences on women increased from 300 in 1985 to nearly 3,000 in 1995. And in the preparatory process for the recent Habitat II conference in Istanbul, NGOs for the first time took part in the informal groups drafting the Declaration and Programme of Action. NGO representation at these conferences has also changed, with more community-based groups now active alongside the larger, international NGOs.

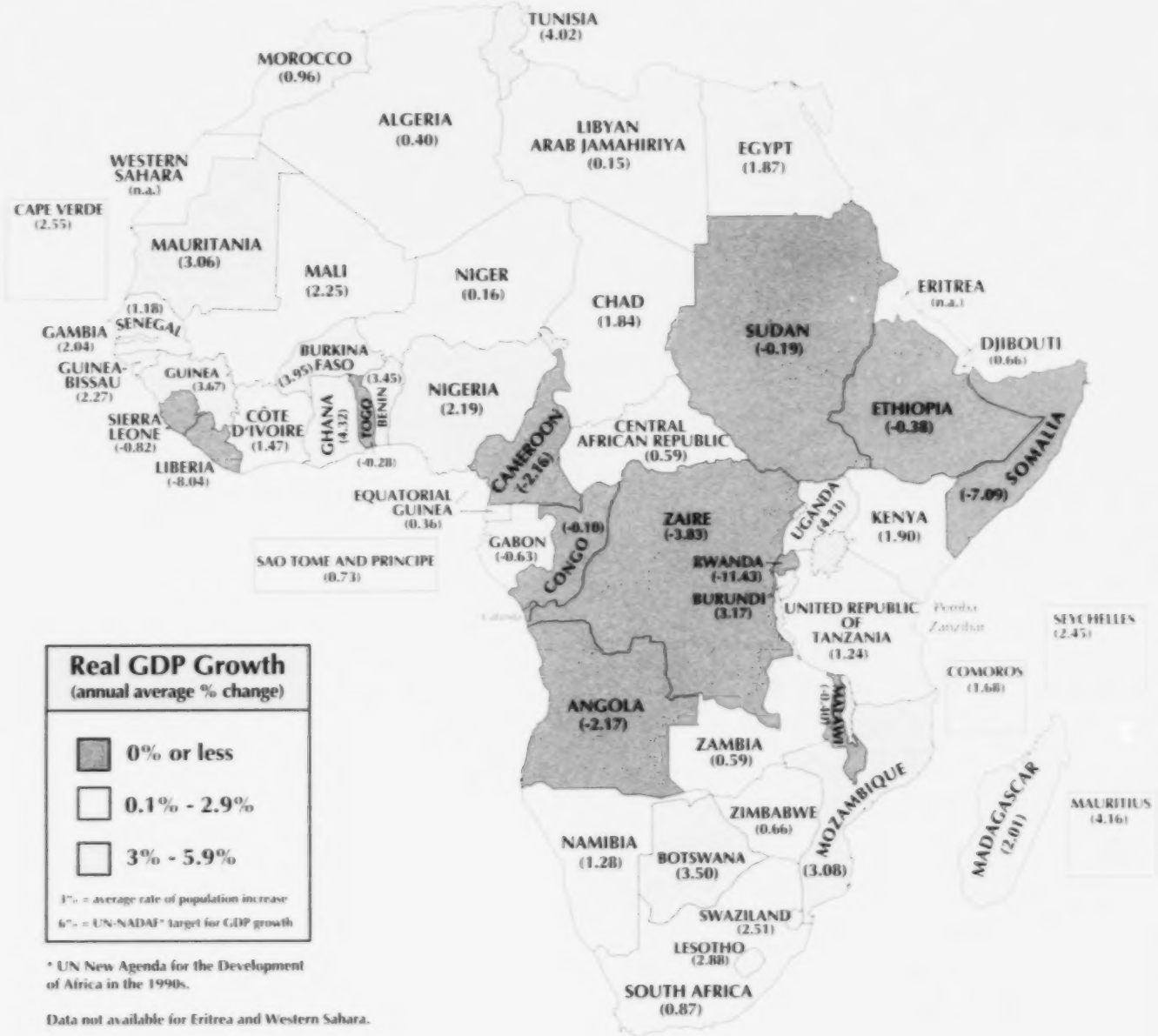
Other consultations between NGOs and UN structures in the implementation of the New Agenda have included the UN Economic Commission for Africa/Forum of African Voluntary Development Organizations symposium on the role of NGOs in the implementation of UN-NADAF in November 1994 in Saly, Senegal; the Brainstorming Workshop on NGOs and African Development organized by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (OSCAL) in New York in January 1995; the Parallel Event to the High-level Segment of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on Africa held in Geneva in July 1995; and the NGO Forum and the Fourth World Conference on Women, both held in Beijing in August-September 1995.

NGOs are also taking part in the Mid-term Review of UN-NADAF. Their input includes a report entitled *The Emerging Role of NGOs in African Sustainable Development*, which contains 24 case studies of international and African NGO work in critical areas of UN-NADAF. Copies of this report can be obtained from OSCAL at (212) 963 5006/4780. ■

UN-NADAF Mid-term Review

Africa's economic performance

Real growth of gross domestic product, 1991-95 average



Real GDP Growth
(annual average % change)

- 0% or less
- 0.1% - 2.9%
- 3% - 5.9%

3% = average rate of population increase

6% = UN-NADAF* target for GDP growth

* UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

Data not available for Eritrea and Western Sahara.

Source: UN Economic Commission for Africa, *Economic Report on Africa 1996;* except for South Africa, which is based on IMF and UN Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis data.

* Boxed islands not to scale

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Produced by Africa Recovery, UN Department of Public Information
Room S-931, United Nations, New York 10017 Tel: (212) 963-6857; Fax: (212) 963-4556

UN-NADAF Mid-term Review

Press release

16 September 1996

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL URGES MORE SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT

'Tangible progress' made during first half of UN New Agenda, but greater effort needed from Africa and international community

To consolidate and extend the significant economic and political gains that have been achieved in Africa over the past five years, the continent's reform process requires greater commitment by both African governments and the international community, says UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

In a new report on the UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), the Secretary-General notes a marked improvement in Africa's economic performance over the first half of the decade. In 1995, he reports, 12 African countries registered a gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of 6 per cent or more, UN-NADAF's recommended target, while in 1992 only three countries had reached that level. Although citing this and other "signs of tangible progress," the Secretary-General also points to shortcomings, including a stagnation in external aid to Africa, with net flows of official development assistance to the continent declining from $25 bn in 1992 to $23 bn in 1994.

The report was prepared for the UN General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole, which will conduct a week-long review of the implementation of UN-NADAF, beginning on 16 September 1996. The review will hear assessments of the efforts made to meet the objectives of the New Agenda by African countries and by the international community, including the UN system. It will also hear proposals for enhancing UN-NADAF's implementation over the next half-decade. The views of governments, non-governmental organizations, multilateral institutions and regional bodies such as the Organization of African Unity will be considered.

"At this critical point," the Secretary-General's report says, the international community should "accelerate its support to these countries in order to sustain the momentum leading to recovery and sustainable development." In particular, he argues, the international community must improve the level and scope of aid and take "additional and decisive measures" to resolve Africa's debt crisis. It also must take concrete steps to help African countries adjust to the new global market environment.

In response to the particularly difficult development challenges facing the African continent, UN-NADAF was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1991 as a framework of consensus and partnership between Africa and the international community. It outlined complementary actions to be taken by both African countries and their international partners in the 1990s, in order to meet priority development objectives. African countries agreed to intensify efforts in such areas as economic management, regional cooperation, democratization, investment promotion, social services, agriculture, environment and population. The continent's external partners pledged to reinforce these efforts with the necessary financial and technical support, especially through higher net resource flows including deeper debt relief, and improved market access for African exports.

Signs of progress

In his report on UN-NADAF implementation, the Secretary-General finds that "the great majority of African countries have consistently taken appropriate actions to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development." These actions include a range of political and economic reforms which have brought signs of progress:

- In addition to an increased number of African countries with GDP growth rates of 6 per cent or higher, the number with negative growth dropped from 19 in 1993 to three in 1995.
- A growing commitment to regional and sub-regional economic cooperation and integration.
- Marked progress in democratic and constitutional reform, with a dramatic growth in multiparty elections and intensified efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts. Non-governmental organizations also have increased their role in national development

programmes, emphasizing community participation and self-help efforts.
Greater promotion of the domestic and foreign private sector in economic development.
Reforms to boost agriculture and improve access to food by the poorest groups, as well as programmes to safeguard the environment and address population issues.

The Secretary-General devotes a significant portion of his report to a series of recommendations to both Africa and the international community, with the aim of enhancing the implementation of UN-NADAF over the next five years. The primary responsibility, he affirms, rests with Africa, and the continent's leaders must acknowledge that "Africa's future is in their hands."

To consolidate the democratization process and improve governance in Africa, the Secretary-General recommends that African countries provide for wider popular participation in decision-making, encourage the emergence of a strong and vibrant civil society, ensure the independence of the media and adhere to the rule of law, with an objective judicial system. They should also create mechanisms to promote political stability and to prevent or resolve conflicts.

Turning to capacity-building, African countries need to improve health care systems, intensify efforts towards universal primary education and literacy, integrate population policies into their development strategies, address problems of unemployment and empower women to participate fully in the development process.

On domestic resource mobilization, the Secretary-General suggests that measures should be taken to improve taxation, control public expenditures, increase private savings and attract domestic and foreign investment. And to raise the continent's earnings, African economies need to boost external trade and diversify away from dependence on a limited number of primary commodities. Efforts should also be made to strengthen African regional and subregional institutions.

Noting that UN-NADAF emphasizes the principles of "shared responsibility and full partnership" between Africa and the international community, the Secretary-General also highlights a number of areas in which the continent's development partners should reinforce their support for Africa.

During the first half of the UN-NADAF period, financial flows to Africa had "stagnated at a level below what was expected," the Secretary-General observes. But there is a "strong case" for increasing both the volume and the concessionality of development assistance to Africa, he argues, given that the economic difficulties of many African countries make access to private funding impossible. In addition, the Secretary-General suggests, donors should re-channel aid to Africa's key development priorities, switch to non-debt creating forms of assistance, link humanitarian and development assistance and better coordinate their various aid programmes.

While there has been some progress in resolving the international debt crisis, the Secretary-General notes, this has been less marked for low-income countries, especially in Africa, where external debt servicing claims nearly one-fifth of average savings. He recommends that commercial banks be encouraged to accept deeper discounts in buy-back operations and that more resources be provided to the World Bank's debt-reduction facility for low-income countries. The Paris Club of official creditors should be encouraged to improve its terms for reducing official bilateral debt, while the World Bank and International Monetary Fund should be encouraged to implement recent proposals on relief of multilateral debt, which now accounts for nearly half of Africa's debt servicing obligations.

The Uruguay Round agreements on international trade offer long-term possibilities for African products to gain greater access to world markets, says the Secretary-General, but in the short term they may have negative effects as African countries lose their trade preferences in European markets and face higher food import bills. He therefore urges support for appropriate compensation, including further tariff reductions on African products, as well as assistance with food imports. In addition, the Secretary-General urges donor countries to help finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification programmes in African countries. ■

For more information please contact Africa Recovery, UN Department of Public Information
Room S-931, United Nations, New York 10017 Tel: (212) 963-6857; Fax: (212) 963-4556

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

Report of the Secretary-General

This report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 50/160 on the mid-term review of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. It highlights the critical issues for consideration by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole and recommends measures to accelerate the implementation of the New Agenda. The report is based on the findings by the Economic Commission for Africa on actions taken by African countries to implement the New Agenda and on inputs from relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system.

* A/51/150

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In its schedule for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) provided for the mid-term review of its implementation in 1996. By resolution 50/160, the General Assembly, acting on this provision, decided to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the Fiftieth session to conduct the mid-term review and submit its report to the Fifty-first session and requested that the Secretary-General submit a report on the implementation of the New Agenda with inputs from Governments and organizations of the United Nations system as well as from intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and non-governmental organizations.

This report reviews some critical development issues affecting the implementation of the New Agenda and recommends measures to accelerate this implementation, and generally to foster sustained and sustainable growth and development in Africa. The imperative tense is used in order to highlight these measures. The annex to the report gives an account of the performance in the implementation of the New Agenda, focusing on efforts by all respective parties concerned.

Following the introduction, part II of the report raises a number of priority issues facing Africa in the 1990s. These issues include good governance, human development and capacity building, mobilization of resources, including domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI), trade, commodity diversification and industrial development. The report recommends the following:

a) To improve governance, it is important that African countries pursue and further strengthen the democratization process and enhance an institutional framework that ensures the rule of law, promotes a strong and participatory civil society, allows a free and independent press, ensures the functioning of an independent, efficient and reliable judicial system and civil service and a strong partnership between Government and the private sector, as well as NGOs and grassroots organizations.

b) Conflict prevention, management and resolution, should be actively pursued with African countries taking required measures within appropriate mechanisms.

c) To enhance human development and capacity building, African countries need to allocate adequate resources for this purpose. Some of the additional resources for human development and capacity building could be mobilized through reductions in unproductive public spending. On the other hand, public expenditure on human development should be increased. Where inadequate, health care systems should be expanded and made more efficient with the help of the private sector. Similarly, education systems should be strengthened by improving basic skills for further learning and expanding educational opportunities for all, particularly girls and women. An interrelated aspect of capacity building is the effective deployment and utilization of human resources developed through educational training, and provision of health services including other social services. The Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Dakar-Ngor Declaration, on Population, Family and Sustainable Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action should be implemented by African countries.

d) To mobilize development resources, it is essential for African countries to encourage public savings through implementing efficient taxation policies, rationalizing public expenditure and creating the conditions for increasing private savings through strengthening financial intermediation structures and adopting appropriate interest rate policies. Export earnings are also critical in mobilizing development resources. Therefore, African countries should attempt to restructure the composition of exports and develop niche markets for them. To attract foreign direct investment, African countries will have to ensure political and macroeconomic stability; encourage the development of the private sector; improve intrastructure, paying particular attention to strengthening technological capacities and the development of the telecommunications and information systems; improve financial intermediation and facilitate direct capital transfers between private institutions through money markets and banks and encourage factor mobility among African countries through establishing subregional clearing houses, promoting convertibility of subregional currencies and allowing mobility of capital.

e) The principles of full partnership and shared responsibility call for the international community to provide adequate and assured support for the implementation of UN-NADAF. To do so, the international community should improve the level, scope and modalities of its assistance. This would include channelling assistance towards Africa's development priorities and switching to non-debt creating assistance.

f) Key development partners should also extend to African countries exemption from trade rules relating to the elimination of subsidies and liberalization

requirements and at the same time promote diversification of Africa's economic base, especially commodities. The international community should make an "adequate special contribution" to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification projects and programmes as called for by the General Assembly resolution 49/142.

g) The donor community should take additional and decisive measures to alleviate Africa's external debt burden. These measures could include, inter alia: extending the limit for debt reduction beyond the Naples Terms, taking into account the specific requirements of each country, including its ratio of debt service to savings; encouraging multilateral financial institutions to do the same for highly indebted poor countries; and supplementing existing strategies for debt reduction with adequate adjustment policies and concessional aid flows.

h) The coordination of multi-donor assistance is also critical to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of development assistance. This objective could be strengthened by the support of coherent sector strategies with common implementation and follow-up arrangements and focused efforts on building national implementation capacities.

Part III of the report contains the conclusions.

The annex reviews the efforts made by African countries and the international community in implementing UN-NADAF. These are as follows:

a) There has been a significant improvement in the overall economic performance with the number of countries recording negative growth rates dropping from 19 in 1993 to 3 in 1995. Also, the number of countries that achieved the target of 6 per cent annual GDP growth rate increased from 3 in 1992, to 12 in 1995.

b) Consistent with the Abuja Treaty, which came into force in 1993, African countries have incorporated significant institutional changes to reinforce and rationalize cooperation mechanisms. A regional dimension of African development has been integrated into sub-regional efforts in implementing economic reforms and liberalizing trade.

c) The majority of African countries have engaged, though with mixed results, in constitutional reform. During the past five years, multi-party elections have become commonplace in political life, and civic organizations have emerged nearly in every country.

d) The drive towards re-defining the respective roles of the State and the private sector is now fostered in many countries. The increased awareness of the key role of the private sector is being translated in several initiatives to promote private entrepreneurship as well as improving the business environment. Beyond privatizations, a number of Governments have revised their foreign investment legislation to make their countries more investment-friendly, including lifting restrictions on investment in sectors previously classified as sensitive.

e) The development of the food and agricultural sector has been central to most of the economic reforms in Africa. Policies aimed at domestic trade facilitation have benefitted farmers and food traders. Similarly, agricultural commodity exporters have profited from tax reforms as well as monetary adjustment. For the improvement of access to food by the poorest groups, some countries were able to establish early warning systems and safety nets to cope with famines and food-related disasters.

f) African Governments have allowed and promoted the participation of African and non-African NGOs in national development programmes. In some countries, mechanisms for continuous consultations between Governments and NGOs have been established. The new climate of confidence has allowed NGOs to figure as key partners in fostering community participation and implementing self-help programmes. They have also adhered to recent international programmes of action for human development which require more resources to develop community health care systems, to maintain and expand social facilities, reform education system with more focus on not only literacy but also skill development, and control major epidemics, including HIV/AIDS.

g) Environment awareness has found expression in several regional and local initiatives. Many countries have adopted National Environment Action Plans (NEAP) and encouraged participatory community actions aimed at the control of desertification. Many Governments have undergone a change in attitude regarding population policy and its relation with production and the environment. A number of measures are now being taken, including awareness-raising with regard to the control of family size, girls education and the status of women.

h) The international community has made significant efforts in supporting Africa's economic recovery and social development. While financial flows to Africa from the donor communities stagnated at a level below what was expected, several measures taken by the donor community have helped reduce the debt

burden for highly-indebted low-income countries. So far, African countries have continued to benefit from trade preferences and export compensatory mechanisms. However, more needs to be done to further alleviate the debt burden, increase ODA and support the development of capacities and the upgrading of infrastructure.

i) The United Nations continues to mobilize international support for Africa, to keep African development on the international agenda for the 1990s and to allocate increased resources to programmes on Africa. Despite budget constraints the drive towards a system-wide coordinated approach culminated in the launching, in March 1996, of the Special Initiative on Africa.

j) As evidenced in the report, the great majority of African countries have consistently taken appropriate actions to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development, including, in particular, political and economic reforms. As a result, signs of tangible progress are noticeable. At this critical point, the international community should accelerate its support to these countries in order to sustain the momentum leading to recovery and sustainable development.

PART I. INTRODUCTION

1. The conclusion that emerged from the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) conducted in September 1991 was that the economic and social crisis facing the African continent since the early 1980s had continued unabated. There was ample evidence that Africa had achieved little progress despite the fact that more than 30 African countries had embarked on political and economic reforms through structural adjustment programmes. Only a few signs of recovery were noticeable while the overall outlook was simply bleak. The structural constraints to growth had continued and the social situation as suggested by the declining trends in major social indicators, especially the increase in poverty, continued to give rise for concern.

2. It is in this context, and based on Africa's submission, that the General Assembly unanimously adopted in December 1991 the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (annex II to General Assembly resolution 46/151). In this new political compact, African countries clearly reaffirmed the primary responsibility of Africans for the economic and social development of the continent. The international community committed itself to support Africa's efforts. A major feature of the New Agenda was the principle of shared responsibility and full partnership for the achievement of the desired goals including, inter alia, an annual average growth rate of 6 per cent of gross domestic product by African countries (GDP) and a minimum of net official development assistance (ODA) of US$ 30 billion in 1992, which would increase at an annual average rate of 4 per cent thereafter.

3. As adopted by the General Assembly, the New Agenda underscored a mutuality of commitments and responsibility by Africa on the one hand, and the international community on the other. Africa committed itself to focus its efforts on: (i) the restoration of peace and social stability; (ii) the achievement of sustained and sustainable growth and development; (iii) the promotion of regional and sub-regional economic cooperation and integration; (iv) the improvement of living standards, equality of opportunity for women and the intensification of the democratization process; (v) the promotion of investment; (vi) the development of human resources and capacity building; (vii) the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development; (viii) the integration of population factors into the development process; (ix) the pursuit of agricultural and rural development policies and strategies in order to fully integrate rural economies in their national context, achieve food security and strengthen self-reliance in food; (x) the intensification of South-South cooperation; (xi) and the increased role of non-governmental organizations.

4. For its part, the international community pledged to provide full and tangible support to Africa in its efforts to achieve sustained and sustainable growth and development. Such support would primarily cover: (i) solution to Africa's debt problem; (ii) increased resource flows; (iii) enhancing Africa's export earnings by providing more open access to markets and by supporting the diversification of African economies, especially of commodity diversification; (iv) regional economic integration; (v) arresting environmental degradation and enhancing scientific and technological capacities.

5. The United Nations system was expected to play a major role in the implementation of the New Agenda by devising a system-wide plan of action for Africa consistent with the elements of the Agenda, and devoting adequate resources for its implementation. In accordance with the established schedule, the Secretary-General was requested to report on the implementation of the New Agenda to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Non-governmental organizations were called to play an increased role in various areas of the New Agenda, including, in particular, the promotion of indigenous small-scale businesses, community development projects, training, the mobilization and efficient utilization of domestic resources, and the formulation and implementation of development assistance projects.

6. Political support to the New Agenda was reaffirmed by the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), held in October 1993 and co-organized by the Government of Japan, Global Coalition for Africa and the United Nations. The Conference adopted the Tokyo Declaration on African Development which underscores the determination of African countries and their development partners to strengthen their collective forward-looking efforts for the development of Africa, within the priorities set by the New Agenda. As a follow-up to TICAD, the Asia-Africa Forum: Sharing of Experiences was held in Bandung in December 1994 to enhance Asia-Africa cooperation. As part of an effort to relaunch development of the continent and reaffirm Africa's primary responsibility and ownership of its development, the Organization of African Unity Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session in Cairo in March 1995 in which they conducted an in-depth and critical review of the political, economic, and social situation in the continent. The session concluded with the adoption of the Cairo Agenda for Action which was endorsed by the OAU Summit of the Heads of States and Governments in June 1995.

7. The New Agenda is a global political compact which integrates the objectives of other initiatives on Africa, such as the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community; Agenda 21 on Environment and Development; the Dakar-Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development; the Human Development for Africa for the 1990s; the Second Industrial Development Decade in Africa (IDDA II), the Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (UNTACDA II) and the African Platform for Action adopted by the Fifth Regional Conference on Women in Dakar. It should, therefore, not be seen as an instrument to be implemented in isolation from other programmes adopted in the major areas of social and economic development.

8. The objectives, goals and priority areas set out in the New Agenda are carried forward and reinforced by other global major programmes originating from United Nations Conferences and including, the Agenda 21 adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; the Programme of Action of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development; the United Nations Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s; the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development; the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women; and the Istanbul Declaration and Habitat Agenda adopted by Habitat II. In light of these existing instruments, it is essential for African countries to design policies and strategies to address their economic and social problems and for the international community to boldly support their efforts.

9. This report is prepared in accordance with resolution 50/160 of the General Assembly and is based on the analysis of data and information gathered from several sources, including African Member States which responded to that effect to an ECA questionnaire, and relevant reports by international organizations, essentially within the United Nations system. This report has adopted the same structure as the one submitted by the Secretary-General to the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council, in July 1995, on "The Development of Africa including the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s". It reviews the critical issues requiring further consideration which also constitute obstacles to the full implementation of the New Agenda during the second half of the 1990s and beyond and presents recommendations for enhancing its implementation. It reviews and analyzes actions taken by African countries, the donor community, the United Nations system, the non-governmental organizations and other countries and entities for the implementation of the New Agenda since its inception in December 1991. This review and analysis, presented in the annex to the report, is based on a report prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa in response to the request contained in resolution 50/160.

PART II. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW AGENDA

10. The implementation of the New Agenda in the first half of the 1990s has resulted in several achievements, including an unprecedented change in the landscape of the African political economy and an improved climate for international development cooperation. Although by 1995 more African countries than

in 1991 had made significant achievements in a number of the key areas, the overall situation is characterized by some uncertainties. For the effective implementation of the New Agenda, Africa and the international community need to give particular consideration to the areas that would contribute most to consolidate the basis for achieving a substantial breakthrough.

A. AT THE LEVEL OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES

11. At the level of African countries, the range of policy priorities deserving reinforced commitment include good governance, human development and capacity building, mobilization of domestic resources and foreign direct investment, trade and diversification of Africa's commodities, and industrial development.

(a) Good governance

12. Good governance has been identified by recent regional and international programmes of action as a pre-requisite to sustained and sustainable growth and development including poverty eradication. In the Cairo Agenda for Action — Relaunching Africa's Economic and Social Development — adopted in March 1995, the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity recognized and resolved "that good governance, peace, security and stability and justice are among the most essential factors in African socio-economic development". The Council forcefully recommended that all African countries take the necessary measures to " ensure the speedy promotion of good governance, characterized by accountability, probity, transparency, equal application of the rule of law, and a clear separation of powers, as an objective and a condition for rapid and sustainable development in African societies."

13. Sustainable development cannot occur without peace, which requires proactive efforts towards conflict prevention, management and resolution. Most African countries now recognize these links and are actively engaged in initiatives for peace building through, for example, training programmes on conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

14. To consolidate the democratization process and improve governance, further concrete steps at the national level need to be taken to:

(i) create an institutional framework that: a) assures wider participation in decision-making and implementing processes and facilitates the emergence of a strong, viable, and assertive civil society; b) promotes open dialogue with all groups, be they ethnic, religious or regional; c) intensifies the democratization process; d) guarantees the rule of law, accountability and transparency of Government;

(ii) allow free and independent media and encourage the scrutiny of Government and of public agencies and bodies by the free press;

(iii) ensure the establishment and functioning of an objective, independent, efficient and reliable judicial system;

(iv) institute mechanisms for promoting peace, political stability and security; and

(v) create a developmental State by establishing an efficient, motivated and dedicated civil service, and maintaining a strong partnership between the Government and the private sector.

(b) Human development and capacity building

15. Human resources in many African countries are inadequately developed as is evident from the low and limited access of the population to education at all levels, health and other social services; high levels of un- and under-employment, particularly among the youth and women; and low levels of income and productivity of the labour force. Thus matching available human resource endowment with actual requirements is one of the most critical problems facing Africa in its endeavour to achieve sustainable development.

16. A major challenge from the mid-1990s and beyond will be to overcome these constraints and to ensure that human capacities are solidly built to catalyze the socio-economic development process. To this end, African countries should endeavour to translate their commitments to the development of human resources into realistic, and concrete measures, particularly in the following priority areas: (i) expanding and increasing the efficiency of health care systems; (ii) implementing coherent population policies; (iii) strengthening the education systems; (iv) enhancing scientific and technological capacities; and (v) efficiently utilizing human resources.

17. Good health is essential to sustainable development. Health sector reform should be put in place to ensure more equity in service delivery and more efficiency. This calls for rebuilding, upgrading and expanding the delivery of services to reach a much wider population. Since the Government alone would be unable to meet the need in the health and education sectors, measures would have to be designed to induce a greater participation of the private sector and community-based organizations in the delivery of health services.

18. Population, patterns of production and consump-

tion, poverty and environment, and the empowerment of women are so closely and intricately inter-related that none of them can be considered in isolation. At its current annual rate, population growth already outstrips many national efforts aimed at food security, employment, poverty eradication and social progress. Comprehensive population policies and programmes which address the specific long-term development goals of a country should be formulated and implemented as integral components of macro- and sectoral development strategies. Programmes for the provision of reproductive health information and services, including for family planning, should be strengthened and expanded. Empowerment of women and their greater participation in development efforts is a basic and cardinal prerequisite for sustainable development.

19. The Programme of Action of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development and the Dakar/Ngor Declaration on Population, Family and Sustainable Development, have recommended a set of measures that African countries should endeavour to implement. These include the following specific population and development goals to:

(i) integrate population policies and programmes in development strategies, focusing on strengthening social sectors to increase access of the population to such services and working towards bringing down the natural population growth rate from 3.0 to 2.5 per cent by the year 2000 and 2.0 per cent by the year 2010;

(ii) ensure the availability and promotion of the use of all tested available contraceptive and fertility regulation methods, including traditional and natural family planning with a view to doubling the contraceptive prevalence rate;

(iii) To aim, by the year 2000, for the region as a whole, a life expectancy at birth of at least 55 years, an infant mortality rate of less than 50 per 1000 live births, childhood mortality rate of 70 or less, and furthermore, to develop and implement programmes to reduce maternal mortality by at least 50 per cent from the 1990 level by the year 2000. Such programmes should include family planning services and studies in order to reduce the increasing incidence of unsafe abortion, estimated to cause 30-50 per cent of maternal mortality in parts of Africa.

20. Progress towards achieving universal primary education should be intensified with a view of providing basic skills for further learning. African Governments have committed themselves to the spread of literacy and basic education, with the support of the international community and within the context of the Jomtien Strategies on Education for All. Governments of the region should pursue these strategies with determination. However, the immediate challenge is to remove actual constraints to enrolment and to adapt curricula and service to country specificities and to the region's current and future socio-economic development needs.

21. In most African countries, the private sector participates actively in the pre-primary, primary and secondary education systems. It should be encouraged to venture into post-secondary vocational and technical education and teacher training. Activities such as the production of instructional materials, including textbooks, hold much promise for private sector involvement.

22. The problem of unemployment and underemployment in African countries has proven to be intractable and persistent over the years. Smallholder agriculture, the largest employing sector in the economy, is beset by problems of low skill levels, low application of science and technology to production, and hence low productivity. The private sector can play a major role in a rapid technological development in vital sectors of African economies. There is also need to facilitate the development of informal sector enterprises which employ more than 60 per cent of the urban labour force.

23. It is also important that efforts be made to exploit all of Africa's human potential. Women, who constitute more than 50 per cent of the total population, make up only 37 per cent of the labour force and generally either participate at lower levels of skill or abound in low-productivity activities. In many places, women's status depends on their reproductive status. The average woman in most African countries bears more than six children. Because of a combination of high maternal mortality and high fertility, she has a 1 in 21 lifetime risk of death from pregnancy-related causes. More than 600 mothers die for every 100,000 live births in Africa. Teenage pregnancy is high and rising in many countries. The adoption of the African Platform for Action at the Fifth Regional Conference on Women held in Senegal in 1994 and the Beijing Declaration and Plan for Action (1995) is a renewed commitment by African countries to integrating women in the development process of their countries. National and international efforts should be accelerated towards the implementation of the Platform for Action, and the progress achieved in this regard monitored and evaluated.

(c) Mobilization of development resources, domestic and foreign direct investment

24. To effectively implement the New Agenda and support Africa on the path of economic recovery and robust sustainable development, massive amounts of resources are required. In line with Africa's proclaimed commitment of maximizing self-reliance, most of the needed resources will have to be domestically mobilized in Africa, even though external assistance will remain essential especially for the African least developed countries.

25. What is critically needed is to increase significantly the rates of savings by households, enterprises and the State. It will also be necessary to promote the establishment of efficient domestic intermediating institutions for the mobilization of resources and their channelling to efficient application. The creation of a conducive economic climate as a result of peace, security, stability and improved governance could enhance investor confidence, arrest and reverse capital flight, and help to attract foreign direct investment.

26. Some of the measures proposed to enhance domestic resource mobilization include (i) raising public revenue by restructuring taxation and improving efficiency in tax collection; (ii) controlling public expenditure, focusing public expenditure on priority needs and tightening procurement procedures; (iii) increasing private savings by adopting an appropriate interest rate policy, mobilizing efficiently community resources and encouraging the operations of informal financial institutions, such as "tontines" in West and Central Africa, in productive activities; (iv) reviving external trade through increasing Africa's share of world trade. For Africa to recapture and increase its share of the world market that was lost in the 1980s, African countries should create competitive niches in the world market, especially in the industrial and services sectors, and change the mix of its exports to increase manufactured products.

27. To attract domestic as well as foreign direct investment, it is important to further improve the overall business climate, particularly through the following main measures: (i) ensure political stability and, in this context, social stability is important to promote economic growth and development, to avoid capital flight and attract fresh resources from outside; (ii) demonstrate accountability and transparency; (iii) sustain the momentum of growth and macroeconomic stability by the adoption of appropriate fiscal, monetary and financial policies; (iv) curtail and better control non-productive expenditures, such as military expenditures; (v) support African entrepreneurial drive and private initiative, and therefore nurture the private sector, promote and give a greater role to spearhead the acceleration of economic growth; develop and maintain infrastructural facilities.

28. Efficient telecommunications facilities are a vital element of basic infrastructure. The most recent advances in informatics and telecommunications allowing the rapid transmission of vast amount of data on the global electronic highway give foreign firms the ability to redeploy production activities over a wide geographical area while maintaining low costs and retaining quality. Access to reliable and modern telecommunications services is not only crucial to the performance of domestic firms and markets, but also a determinant of foreign investment location. Therefore, particular attention should be paid to developing telecommunications and current efforts should be boosted and increased investment made in this sector.

29. The improvement of financial institutional infrastructure is another important measure that would need utmost attention. In this respect the measures that could be considered by African countries include: (i) facilitating increased direct capital transfers between private institutions through money markets, banks, etc.; (ii) facilitating financial transactions and transfer among African countries; (iii) deepening and improving financial intermediation by implementing the recommendations of the Secretary-General's report "Towards advancing financial intermediation in Africa" (Document A/50/490). The report recommended that African countries should support and promote various bank and non-bank financial institutions; devise and promote the development of a variety of financial instruments and develop and implement specific instruments in accordance with the circumstances of countries. In addition, they should strengthen the ability of financial institutions like the postal system, credit unions and cooperatives, and NGO-sponsored credit institutions to mobilize small savings.

(d) Trade, commodity diversification and industrial development

30. Many African countries continue to rely on the export of two to three primary commodities for the bulk of their export earnings. However, this dependence on a limited number of primary commodities has had severe adverse effects on the ability of African countries to better absorb cyclical shocks or world recessions. Furthermore, the producers of primary commodities are faced with a severe reduction in the purchasing power of agricultural exports due to a general downward trend

in demand and prices. Because of their narrow export base, the erosion of preferential markets, as a result of the Uruguay Round Agreements, has had an adverse effect on their overall export earnings, limiting their gains in improved access in other categories.

31. African Governments need to diversify their economies. A diversified economy strengthens links among the various sectors of the economy and leads to the development of other sectors of the economy such as transportation, communications and finance. It is also critical to improving the sustainability of production and the reduction of environmental stress. Vertical diversification, through increased processing to enhance the value-added of existing commodities, and horizontal diversification, through the production of a wider range of exports for the domestic and external markets, including the development of new uses for traditional commodities, lead to increased job opportunities and higher incomes. Higher income improves access to food by the poor. In order to become more closely integrated into the global economy, African countries also need to increase their export of products and services and develop niche markets for which there is an increasing international demand.

32. To do so, African countries could put more priority on diversification in their development policies and investment programmes and create an enabling environment by fostering private sector initiatives in this area, making infrastructural improvements and strengthening human resources and technological capacity, particularly in the area of production, processing and marketing.

33. Industrial development is central to the structural transformation of African economies; to an increase in national production, employment and incomes; and to the diversification of Africa's exports. At present, the level of industrial development in many African countries is low, characterized by inefficient technology inputs and high operating costs.

34. It is, therefore, critical that national policies and programmes be formulated for the accelerated industrial development of African countries. To this end, priority attention, at the national level, should be given to: (i) the effective implementation of the Programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa; (ii) the strengthening of the sub-regional and regional institutions in the fields of science, technology, engineering, management and industrial standardization and quality control; and (iii) the development and strengthening of indigenous entrepreneurial capability, with special focus on micro, small- and medium-scale enterprises.

B. AT THE LEVEL OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

35. UN-NADAF emphasizes the principles of "shared responsibility and full partnership" between Africa and the international community and calls for a new partnership for Africa's development. In pursuit of this, the international community has accepted that quality international support and co-operation are vital for Africa's development.

36. The international community should reinforce its support for Africa by a greater focus on assisting African countries to make progress in the critical priority issues; furthermore it is necessary to increase the level, scope and modality of resource flows through ODA, improve the external environment particularly as it relates to external indebtedness, support the diversification of commodities, and facilitate and enhance market access to Africa's exports.

37. In this context, a formula under discussion is the 20/20 initiative, by which on a voluntary basis those donor countries reserve 20 per cent of their aid to the development of vital social sectors, while national governments that are willing to do so similarly allocate 20 per cent of their national budget to these goals. This initiative, which would increase significantly and/or utilize more efficiently the resources allocated to social development, was discussed at a recent international meeting in Oslo (April 1996) by a number of interested countries, many from Africa, and multilateral organizations.

(a) Improving the level, scope and modalities of aid

38. Given that many African countries, especially the LDCs, continue to face economic difficulties which make their access to private credits impossible, there is a strong case for increasing the volume and concessionality of development assistance to Africa. In addition, the quality of international support to Africa's development efforts will need to improve significantly in the 1990s. Central to this change is the acceptance by the donor community that African countries are in a stage of transition which it is willing to support.

39. Some of the measures that need to be examined by the donor community and African countries individually and collectively include the following:

(i) Focusing aid resources on Africa's own priorities through adhering to well-articulated priorities of the recipient countries. The need for re-channelling of aid flows to key priority development programmes in the context of sound macro-economic policies ought to be recognized, the capacity building

requirements ought to be carefully examined, and technical assistance ought to be targeted to activities that fulfil that objective and phased out as local capacity develops. International support should not create new debts.

(ii) Linking humanitarian and development assistance through allocation of more resources to conflict prevention and giving priority to reconstruction in post-conflict societies. In recent years, Africa has witnessed a number of violent intra-state conflicts that have diverted a significant portion of domestic and international resources away from development and have become a major impediment to development. At the same time, a few countries are coming out of such conflicts but the situation there remains fragile. The efforts being taken by African countries, singly and collectively, to address conflict resolution and conflict management problems within Africa are most encouraging. However, unless these efforts are supplemented by international financial and technical assistance, they may prove inadequate. Consideration should be given to developing a response mechanism to attract appropriate assistance in post-conflict situations.

40. A comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and management, post-conflict reconstruction and development needs to be devised by the international community including the United Nations, the multilateral financial and development institutions, interested donors and African countries along the following lines:

1. Support the OAU Mechanism for the Prevention, Management, and Resolution of Conflicts, and its Peace Fund;
2. Strengthen the international community's early warning capacity to detect impeding conflicts;
3. Encourage a coordinated donor response to meet the needs of post-conflict reconstruction that provides policy advice and assistance within a coordinated framework;
4. Encourage African countries to reduce military expenditure.

(b) Improving the external environment

41. Measures in this area include further alleviation of Africa's debt burden and enhancing Africa's export earnings through export promotion and diversification.

(i) Further alleviation of Africa's debt burden

42. Over the years since the emergence of the debt crisis in the early 1980s, steady progress has been made in resolving the global debt problem. However, while the progress is noticeable for middle-income countries, it is less marked for low-income countries, especially African countries, despite the special facilities in their favour, including the enhanced concessional terms by the Paris Club and the concessional lending by the IMF, the World Bank and others. The debt problem of Africa needs to be seen not only in terms of its sustainability from the point of view of the balance of payments, or even indeed budgetary balances, but also in relation to a country's actual and potential savings capability. Although individual countries have diverse debt-servicing profiles, external debt service claims nearly one-fifth of its average savings, and over 4 per cent of its GDP; debt service on multilateral debt accounts for nearly half of the total debt service or about .2 percentage points of GDP. Given the low level of savings in Africa, and the need to supplement it with external capital flows, such a high proportion of domestic savings being pre-empted by external debt service cannot be considered sustainable. Further, given that almost half of the debt service is accounted for by the debt owed to multilateral institutions, a lasting solution of the debt problem of Africa cannot be found without also addressing the issue of multilateral debt.

43. The international community should consider further initiatives along the following lines to resolve the debt problem of African countries on a sustainable basis:

- With respect to commercial bank debt, commercial banks should be encouraged to accept deeper discounts in buy-back operations, lower interest rate on par bonds, and devise options (such as less than full collateralization of principal) to reduce up-front costs. Furthermore, consideration should be given to providing additional resources for the World Bank's Debt Reduction Facility for IDA countries;
- As concerns official bilateral debt, and as indicated by the G-7 Summit in its Lyon Communiqué of 28 June 1996, encourage the Paris Club not to consider the 67 per cent debt-stock reduction agreed in Naples as the absolute upper limit, but to go beyond it if the individual circumstances of a country so justify it, including the country's savings potential and the ratio of debt service to savings. A recent Joint Analysis by the World Bank and the IMF suggests that for the majority of highly indebted poorest countries, the existing strategies and mechanisms are likely to be adequate with appropriate adjustment policies and concessional aid flows. However, for a minority of these countries, a debt relief up to 90 per cent of the net present value

(NPV) of debt would be required in order to restore this long-term external sustainability. The Paris Club could also be asked to provide guarantee of debt relief by giving up-front debt-stock reduction, especially in those cases where the countries have already demonstrated good track records in the implementation of reform programmes.

- Regarding multilateral debt, the above-mentioned Joint Analysis by the World Bank and the IMF not only recognizes the magnitude of multilateral debt, but, more importantly, makes proposals that cover this category of debt for the first time. These proposals have been endorsed by the Interim Committee of the IMF and a definite decision should be forthcoming by the time of September 1996 Annual Meetings of the IMF/World Bank. These two institutions should be provided with necessary encouragement, including resources (especially for ESAF) to implement their proposals.

(ii) Enhancing Africa's export earnings

44. The successful completion of the Uruguay Round, by providing greater access to the world markets for African products, holds promising possibilities for African exports in the long run. In the immediate short term, however, the net effect of the Uruguay Round may well be negative for many African countries, especially due to the loss of preferences in the European Community, as indeed is acknowledged in the Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-Importing Developing Countries, taken at Marrakesh (Morocco). This adverse effect, if realized, would further cut back the growth and savings rates in Africa unless appropriate compensatory facilities, including further tariff reductions by the developed countries on African exports and assistance for food imports, are provided to help African countries adjust to the new global market environment.

45. In the longer term also, benefits from open markets would be more significant and visible for Africa if African countries are able to increase and diversify their products for export. In addressing this concern, the General Assembly, in resolution 49/142, recommended the improvement of existing compensatory mechanisms, the expansion of opportunities offered by the Common Fund for Commodities and urged Member States to make an initial special contribution to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification projects and programmes in African countries. The international community should take steps to implement this resolution as the issue of the establishment of a diversification facility is now perceived by the African countries as a litmus test of the feasibility of the effective implementation of the New Agenda.

(c) Coordination of economic assistance

46. Besides selectivity, another basic requirement is coordination of multi-donor assistance, especially in areas such as agriculture, infrastructure development and health where donor investments predominate. For improving the overall impact of economic assistance, a broader sectoral and integrated approach would be of primary importance. In this respect, the following measures appear necessary to strengthen donor operations:

- economic assistance should support coherent sector strategies, and the objectives determined by the recipient countries should be respected by all donors;
- international assistance should be geared primarily towards the consolidation of nation-wide capacities;
- all donors active in a given sector should strive to build common implementation and follow-up arrangements to avoid over-taxing the already limited capacities of Governments; and
- aid should be paired with minimal technical assistance that primarily aims at reinforcing local implementation capacity.

(d) South-South cooperation

47. The experiences of advanced developing countries are of relevance to African development and suggest that South-South cooperation is a viable strategy for development. Its scope is immense and covers areas such as transfer of technology and know-how, the provision of advisory services, training, joint ventures, trade and investment, agricultural and fishery development, education and research, and poverty reduction.

48. To benefit fully from South-South cooperation, African countries should intensify consultations with other developing countries and establish the necessary governmental institutional setting to coordinate and strengthen South-South exchanges.

49. Advanced developing countries, including the newly industrialized countries should pay special attention to African needs for South-South cooperation. They should take initiatives for consultations, business tours in Africa, fair exhibits, exchange of information, and establish a network for exchange of experiences. Given the diversity of development levels within Africa, the potential for intra-regional cooperation and assistance also needs to be tapped.

50. The United Nations system should intensify its South-South cooperation activities with African countries. To that effect, funding organizations and international financial institutions should allocate more resources to these activities, placing themselves as a third party in triangular arrangements.

51. Donor countries and the private sector should enhance their support for South-South cooperation with Africa by providing the necessary resources, information, know-how and technology transfer through their support for multilateral initiatives, bilaterally or through triangular arrangements.

PART III. CONCLUSIONS

52. The analysis of the progress made in the implementation of the New Agenda during the period 1992-1995 shows achievements in human, institutional and private sector development and reveals significant variations among African countries in their economic and social performance. As evidenced in the analysis, the effective and timely implementation of the New Agenda is contingent upon the political will of African Governments and their commitment to allocate adequate resources for this purpose. However for African efforts to succeed within the time-frame of the Agenda, they should be complemented by adequate and assured resource flows from the international community. The provision of an enabling external environment is also an important factor in this process.

53. In spite of the slow economic recovery in the early 1990s, most African countries have experienced socio-political changes which appear to open up for development. These include, inter-alia:

- the trend towards democratization of political systems and along with it the growing demand for local and regional participation in the development process;
- an increasing recognition by African Governments of the important role of the private sector — domestic and foreign — in development and thus the need to provide an enabling business environment;
- the growing commitment among African countries for promoting sub-regional and regional cooperation and integration. This is evidenced from the concrete action taken by various sub-regional communities towards rationalizing and harmonizing a number of their activities with those of the African Economic Community;
- at the international level, the period 1992-95 witnessed the active participation of Africa at such world conferences and summit meetings held under the United Nations auspices. Thus, should have a positive effect on advancing social and environmental development in the continent.

54. Notwithstanding the successes achieved by a number of African countries, there is still pressing need to address continuing issues in the development process. Some of these issues are: (i) the need to adopt and apply the principles of good governance; (ii) the persistent high rate of population growth and its effect on development; (iii) the gaps in national capacities for implementing development programmes; (iv) the persistent problems of civil war and displaced people; (v) the unmanageable external debt and debt-servicing obligations of Africa; (vi) the stagnation of ODA and FDI flows; and (vii) the anticipated difficulties in adapting to a globalized world economy.

55. To achieve the major objectives of the New Agenda and especially the target growth rate of 6 percent, it will be necessary to open Africa's production and financial sectors to the world and step up the drive to attract more foreign direct investment inflows with a view to gaining access to external markets, and integrating the emerging African economies more closely into the global economy. Even more crucial will be the readiness of Africa's public and private sectors as well as households to boost their aggregate savings rate to channel a substantial share of economic output towards capital investment. African countries need to further realize that Africa's future is in their hands. This requires more commitment by political leaders to the goal of achieving sustained and sustainable growth and development.

56. As the New Agenda deals with the long-term development of Africa, a further commitment to a dynamic partnership between Africa and the international community is vital for the realization of the continent's potential in the coming years. This in no way undermines the need for stronger commitment on the part of African Governments, their peoples and communities towards sustained growth and sustainable development of the African region.

ANNEX

ACTIONS TAKEN AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS NEW AGENDA FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFRICA IN THE 1990s

A. BY AFRICAN COUNTRIES

1. This annex is an attempt to review the achievements made in the implementation of the New Agenda since its adoption in December 1991. Under various priority issues, regional and sub-regional as well as some country-specific experiences are presented.

(a) Sustained and sustainable growth and development

2. Twenty African countries, of which 19 are in Sub-Saharan Africa, experienced negative growth in 1992. In 1993, 1994, and 1995 this figure dropped to 17, 15 and 4 respectively. This explains, in part, the improvement in overall economic performance at the continental level. In 1992, three countries — Burundi, Gambia and Mali — recorded a GDP growth rate of 6 per cent set out in the New Agenda as the desirable average annual growth rate to be achieved by African countries. In 1994 and 1995, ten and twelve countries respectively achieved this rate of growth. They were Angola, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Morocco, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda in 1994. In 1995, the 12 countries with a growth rate of more than 6 per cent included Angola, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Rwanda, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda. Among the 19 countries that achieved GDP growth rates in excess of population growth rates in 1995, five were from Southern Africa, seven from Eastern Africa, four from North Africa, and three from West Africa. Mauritius and Botswana were the two countries that consistently recorded growth rates in excess of 5 per cent between 1992 and 1995. In this context, Africa is no longer an undifferentiated mass of poorly performing economies. Differences among individual African countries and groups of countries with the potential for rapid growth and socio-economic transformation have persisted, but current indications are that African societies and economies increasingly achieve real and sustainable economic growth. Statistical indicators on African economies are given in table 1 of this annex.

3. In almost all countries, reform measures have been adopted to liberalize domestic prices and external trade. About 35 countries have made monetary adjustments. The ensuing results have been significant with respect to growth of food and agricultural production as well as exports. In the CFA zone, countries which have accompanied the monetary alignment with rigorous public finance policies have increased their competitiveness and allowed exporters to gain more resources and have given impetus to private sector recovery by settling internal payment arrears. Important privatization programmes were carried out in North Africa, especially in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. The process has reduced the burden of public parastatals on government budgets and allowed a significant increase of the share of savings and investment in GDP. In this subregion too, trade policy, monetary and fiscal policy measures have allowed the economies of adjusting countries to gain a more diversified structure.

4. About 21 countries have taken steps to improve public finance management through improved methods of accounting. These countries include: Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia. In Cameroon, for instance, the 17 largest public enterprises are now required to submit quarterly financial accounts, which provide information on their current operations and regularly updated forecasts on revenue and expenditure. In Lesotho since March 1993, the budgetary process includes debate by parliament and dissemination of information on the budget to the public and the donor community. In South Africa, the parliamentary standing committees have recently become considerably more active in scrutinizing public expenditure and the activities of public officials. This has been done to improve the domestic economic management, including effective mobilization and utilization of domestic resources.

5. A large number of countries have taken special measures to improve efficiency and transparency in the tax system. Countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Malawi and Mali have reported to have introduced more rigorous controls on customs by simplifying the tax and tariff systems. In the Gambia and Uganda, the latest reforms include the computerization and re-organization of the customs department, and the introduction of a taxpayer identification number. Zambia has made substantial improvements in revenue collection, experiencing a sharp recovery from 14.4 per cent of GDP in 1993 to about 19 per cent in 1995.

(b) Regional and sub-regional economic cooperation and integration

6. African countries have continued to strive for sub-regional and regional co-operation and integration. The coming into force in 1993 of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) was a major step and opened a new chapter in the history of African economic integration.

7. In North Africa, arrangements for sub-regional economic cooperation in the framework of Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) are in progress. An example of sectoral cooperation in the energy sector are plans by Algeria to supply gas for electricity generation in Morocco through the Europe-Maghreb pipeline, the construction of which began in 1994 and is scheduled to commence operation sometime in 1997. Recently, Libya has also significantly increased its investment portfolio in Egypt. Though Egypt and Sudan have yet to be integrated as full members of AMU since they still sit in on Union's meetings as observers, Egypt has already taken steps towards becoming a full Union member.

8. In Eastern and Southern Africa, a Treaty ratified in December 1994 led to the transformation of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern Africa (PTA) into the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). The achievements of COMESA in the implementation of the programmes for transport and communication include a consistent road user charge system approved in April 1, 1995. In co-operation with the European Union (EU), COMESA has also embarked on a project to establish an Advanced Cargo Information System (ACIS), initially in ten of its member countries. These are: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Licensing procedures for heavy vehicles and COMESA third-party motor vehicle insurance schemes have also been established, while the formation of a Multinational Coastal Shipping Line and the adoption of harmonized telecommunication policies are in the pipeline.

9. In East Africa, over the past three years, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania resumed active discussions towards reviving East African co-operation in trade, transport and communications, finance, and investment, as well as regional immigration and security. In March 1996, the Secretariat for East African Co-operation (EAC) was officially inaugurated in Arusha, Tanzania, and the process of the adoption and harmonization of various co-operation and integration policies is underway.

10. The entry of South Africa into SADC in 1994 has been looked at as a move towards stronger sub-regional co-operation and integration. More recently, SADC has targeted itself for the elimination of trade barriers within approximately the coming two years and for the creation of a common currency system by the turn of the century. Attempts are also being made to find modalities of how to harmonize and rationalize SADC/COMESA activities with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts.

11. Consistent with the long-term vision of the Abuja Treaty and with a view to addressing the regional dimension of adjustment, 14 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean, namely, Burundi, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe, have adhered to the Cross Border Initiative (CBI). The Initiative is co-sponsored by the European Union, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the three sub-regional economic groupings, namely COMESA, SADC and the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). CBI is based on the principles of reciprocity, self selection of jointly agreed policies, and peer pressure. It is anticipated that the harmonization of exchange systems and trade policies, together with the removal of trade barriers between the participating countries would lower transaction costs and promote the efficiency gains that a larger market provides.

12. The two main cooperation inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) in the Central African sub-region, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and Union Douanière et Economique de l'Afrique Centrale (UDEAC), have each embarked on a programme of sectoral cooperation in the areas of food and agriculture, industry, transport and communication. Within the institutional framework provided by the African Economic Community, ECCAS has adopted tax and customs reform resulting in a single and simplified common external tariff, a generalized preferential tariff of 20 per cent for intra-community trade and a turn-over tax, which is to pave the way for the introduction of value added tax. Ultimately, the tax systems of the various countries will be harmonized. The third economic community in the sub-region, Communauté Economique des Pays des Grands Lacs (CEPGL), is currently functionally inactive, due to the prevailing unstable situation and insecurity in the area. Made up of three countries (Burundi, Rwanda and Zaire), CEPGL has achieved some success in the areas of energy, agronomic research and transport, despite

the fact that the unresolved conflicts continued to delay the implementation of its comprehensive programme of economic cooperation and integration.

13. Meanwhile, significant institutional changes have also taken place at sub-regional levels in Western and Central Africa between 1992 and 1995. In West Africa, the ECOWAS Council of Ministers agreed in 1993 on a ten-year plan for the harmonization and rationalization of the West African Inter-governmental Organizations (IGOs) so that by the year 2005, all the remaining IGOs (about 40 in all) would have to be transformed into specialized agencies of ECOWAS. This would include the merger of the West African Health Community (WAHC) and the Organization for the Campaign against Major Diseases (OCCGE), the transformation of the West African Clearing House (WACH) into the West African Monetary Agency, and the harmonization of the activities of the Communauté Economique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEAO) and the Mano River Union (MRU) with those of ECOWAS. Also, seven members of ECOWAS (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo), all members of the Union Monétaire Ouest-Africaine (UMOA), signed, on 11 January 1994, a treaty establishing the Union Economique et Monétaire Ouest-Africaine (UEMOA), which subsequently absorbed the Communauté Economique de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (CEAO).

14. Furthermore, in a radical departure from the Community's principal objectives, ECOWAS has acted as a regional peacekeeper by sending in a monitoring group (ECOMOG) to monitor a ceasefire and install an interim Government in Liberia. While the problem of attaining a sustainable peaceful solution in Liberia remains unsolved, the regional efforts towards arriving at some peaceful solution is underway. On July 24, 1993, a Treaty was signed by all ECOWAS members, replacing that of 1975, and adding the role of regional peacekeeping into ECOWAS list of objectives.

(c) Intensification of the democratization process

15. Following the end of the cold war and the fundamental changes that have been taking place both politically and economically in the world at large, Africa has shown its determination to press ahead with the democratization of development and full implementation of the African Charter of People's Human Rights, and the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation.

16. A number of African countries have moved from long-established one-party rule to a process of democratization. It is pertinent to note some concrete achievements made by some African countries in the democratization process. Some examples are as follows: In South Africa, a peaceful constitutional transition from apartheid to a new democratic and non-racial South Africa in 1994 has kindled domestic and international confidence in the country's future. Human rights and popular participation are today widely accepted ruling principles. In Mozambique, the peace accord and multi-party elections that followed in October 1994 were major landmarks in the country's search for stable political environment and national reconciliation. In Ethiopia, a Constituent Assembly elected through popular vote in the spring of 1994 approved the Constitution of the Federal Democratic of Ethiopia in December 1994 leading to the National Assembly in August 1995 and putting an end to the Transitional Government towards the establishment of a Federal Government.

17. During the 1990s, regional initiatives such as the OAU Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution have contributed to bringing peace in the countries such as Angola, Comoros Islands, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mozambique, and to some extent in Burundi and Rwanda. The past and the ongoing peacekeeping activities by the ECOMOG in Liberia should also be seen as an effort towards achieving a peaceful solution in that country.

18. Other initiatives in the direction of conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction are also noteworthy. Under a five-year grant from the Norwegian Government, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) launched a peacekeeping training programme called "Training for peace". The first training seminar in November 1995 involved Government representatives of the 12 SADC (Southern African Development Community) countries. Furthermore, GERDDES Africa (Study and Research Group on Democracy and Economic and Social Development in Africa) is now systematically conducting local seminars on governance in public administration and law schools.

(d) Investment promotion

19. The drive towards privatization of public enterprises and the general favourable macro-economic climate now fostered in many African countries are telling positive signs of the determination by several of these countries to improve the investment climate. Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to Africa in the early 1990s have been stagnant and have hovered around US$3 billion per year. However, in a few middle-income Africa countries, there has been an increase in the flow of FDI in the last two years.

20. A study by UNCTAD entitled "Foreign Direct Investment in Africa 1995", reveals that foreign investment is profitable in Africa. For instance, an interregional comparison of profitability of FDI in Africa by United States foreign affiliates demonstrates that investment in Africa can be highly profitable. In 1992, net income as a share of owner's equity in Africa was 24 per cent, while that of the United States' affiliates in Latin America and the Caribbean was 11 per cent. The figure is also higher than that in most developed country regions (11 per cent for all developed countries). Most of the profits of these affiliates have been generated in the primary sector.

21. The national regulatory frameworks conducive to FDI have evolved in many African countries, permitting easier repatriation of profit and providing tax concessions and other incentives to attract such investments. In an effort to improve the investment climate and encourage the flow of investment, several African countries have eliminated certain restrictive laws, especially those on the repatriation of profits and ownership. The processes in Morocco, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe have been documented.

22. Cameroon and the Central African Republic have managed to bring in line their investment codes in conformity with the provision of Union Douanière et Economique de l'Afrique Centrale (UDEAC) Treaty — a process towards harmonizing all the investment codes in the UDEAC sub-region. The new investment codes offer international investors simplified, transparent, and easy approval processes, including investment authorization services in one place. Furthermore, in August 1994, the Government introduced a business law, which harmonizes commercial legislation in the CFA zone. In addition, a number of incentives, such as tax holidays, and repatriation of dividends, are also provided for in the new investment codes for foreign investment.

23. The Government of Ghana, as part of its Economic Recovery Programme (ERP), has been pursuing a programme of divestiture of state-owned enterprises. Under the Government's ERP, private investors in the divestiture are benefitting through the liberalization of imports and foreign exchange, as well as easy remittance of dividends, profits and fees abroad. In addition, trade regimes devoid of public intervention and reforms that have reduced company tax have helped make the business climate more conducive to investment.

24. In an effort to stimulate private-sector investment and growth, the Government of Uganda has made substantial progress in the politically sensitive task of returning properties expropriated from both the foreigners and the nationals under a former regime. Also, the foreign exchange market has been steadily liberalized, the latest step being the replacement of the foreign exchange auctioning in November 1993 by a fully liberalized inter-bank market.

25. The Government of Zambia, in order to facilitate a uniform policy on privatization and improve transparency in the management of parastatals, has decided to close the parastatal holding company and transfer its remaining responsibilities to the Ministry of Finance and the Zambian Privatization Agency. Liquidation proceedings started in 1994 for both Zambia Airways and the United Bus Company. The political decision to close Zambia Airways demonstrated again the Government's strong commitment to the reform programme.

26. In Ethiopia, domestic private participation in freight forwarding and clearing has been allowed, and domestic private investors can now engage in banking activities. The implementation of the new land leasing policy has started, with the first urban land auction conducted in January 1995.

27. A number of countries went further in opening up their economies for foreign enterprises involvement in sectors that in the past years were restricted to State-owned enterprises. For instance, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger have adopted liberal mining codes and successfully attracted private investments, both domestic and foreign.

(e) Human dimension

28. The imperative of human development was recognized in Africa as far back as the early 1980s. In this regard, noteworthy landmarks are the Khartoum Declaration adopted at the International Conference on the Human Dimension of Africa's Economic Recovery and Development (1988), the African Charter for Popular Participation in Development and Transformation (1990), the World Summit for Children (1990), the World Conference on Education for All (1990) in Jomtien, Thailand, the International Conference on Assistance to the African Child (1993), the African Platform for Action adopted by the Fifth Regional Conference on Women (Dakar, 1994), and the African Common Position on Human and Social Development in Africa (1994) adopted by the ECA Conference of African Ministers responsible for human development in preparation for the World Summit on Social Development.

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29. The achievement of regional and global goals by African countries requires the active involvement of all levels of civil society. As part of national reviews of progress towards these goals, appropriate consideration should be given to measuring its positive contributions, analyzing the constraints it is faced with, and promoting its greater involvement.

30. The extent of overall progress achieved in Africa since the 1990 World Summit for Children can be gauged by the fact that some 33 African countries have finalized their National Programmes of Action for Children. A further dozen are at the draft or preparatory stage, making a total of some 45 which have made significant advances. Noteworthy too is that, out of a total of 53 African States, as per 1 July 1996, 51 have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is further articulated in the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child of the Member States of the OAU. To the same date, 45 countries have become States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.

31. The role of women in development has been receiving due attention. This has been spelt out in various international fora, such as the International Conference on Population and Development held at Cairo, 1994, the World Summit for Social Development held at Copenhagen, in March 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II, held at Istanbul in June 1996. At the Beijing Conference, some 90 States announced very concrete commitments to improve the status of women in different areas. Among them, there were some 20 Governments from Africa. Some of the commitments were to introduce new laws or amend existing ones to advance the status of women and eliminate de jure discrimination, improve women's economic situation and facilitate their access to credit, improve women's literacy level and health conditions, devise means to alleviate the problems of rural women, and increase women's position in politics and higher decision making. Apart from the fact that African countries, individually and collectively, have actively participated in these major conferences, a number of countries have begun implementing some of their commitments, for example, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Nigeria, and Uganda by promoting women's groups and increasing their participation in designing and implementing investment activities in rural areas. Some data show that representation of women in political life is increasing rapidly.

32. The HIV epidemic is continuing to spread steadily in Africa and has started to reverse some of the major development gains. Life expectancy at birth has already decreased in 15 countries (representing 54 per cent of total African population) and projections indicate that the decrease in life expectancy will continue and that the increase in mortality, including child mortality, will be significant well into the next century. On the other hand, some of the countries which are the most affected are starting to see the results of their efforts as the epidemic is starting to slow down. This should be an encouragement for African nations in collaboration with their development partners to redouble their efforts to combat the HIV pandemic.

33. Social safety net policies have been set in a number of countries, for example in Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda. In Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, and Uganda, for instance, this has centred around labour-intensive programmes to assist poor rural households in achieving increased agricultural production and incomes. In addition, credit facilities are extended to retrenched and retired civil servants to enable them to create self initiated income generating activities.

34. Longer term social expenditure policy aimed at maintaining or even increasing real Government expenditure on social services has been observed in several African countries. In Malawi and Zimbabwe, for instance, measures such as the waiving of user fees for primary health and education services for the poor have been enacted. In Kenya, user fees for health services have been waived for children under five years of age and civil servants below a specified age. In Ethiopia, Mali, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, the authorities have sought to reduce military expenditure or other outlays in order to increase social expenditure.

(f) Environment and development

35. There is now consensus on the positive linkages between sustainable environment and development. This recognition has been reinforced by and found expression in the 1992 Earth Summit which translated the new environment and development agenda into a comprehensive plan for national and international action. For their part African countries, in response to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) process, committed themselves in the African Common Position on Environment and Development to integrate environmental concerns in their existing and future sectoral policies. This is with a view to ensuring that such policies protect and improve the environment and natur-

al resource base for the health and welfare of their peoples.

36. Environmental awareness in the African region has found expression in a number of agreements and declarations since the Rio meeting in 1992. A number of meetings and conferences have been held in African countries to adopt ongoing programmes and develop new ones in line with the recommendations of the Rio Conference. Some of the major ones were:

- the ECA Conference of Ministers responsible for Social and Economic Planning and Development, which at its Nineteenth session in May 1993 adopted the African strategies for the implementation of Agenda 21 by resolution 744 (XVIII). The Conference identified seven cross-cutting priority areas out of the twenty-four as contained in the African Common Position for UNCED. The Conference also institutionalized the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development and Environment as a forum to review progress made in promoting sustainable development in the region with emphasis on the relationship between food security, population, human settlements and the environment;
- the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). This is the lead regional inter-governmental institution responsible for environmental issues. At its Fifth session in November 1993, the Conference adopted new policy orientations to provide regional policy framework for national, sub-regional and regional environmental matters, including global negotiations concerning the environmental conservation issues in promoting the sustainable development of the region; and
- the meetings of the major sub-regional inter-governmental organizations on the environment and development, e.g. the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Combating Desertification in the Sahel (CILSS), the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) for the horn of Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

37. In addition, the Organization of African Unity in close collaboration with UNEP, ECA, UNSO and the United Nations agencies, has been active in the region in developing initiatives in the implementation of the UNCED recommendations. ECA has also initiated a number of activities concerning environment and development. In this regard, within the framework Agenda for building and utilizing critical capacities in Africa for sustainable development, ECA has carried out a study on capacity building in the area of environment policies. ECA also developed draft guidelines for monitoring progress made in Member States in building environmental management capacities for sustainable development. These were adopted at the First session of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development (CAMSDE) in March 1996.

38. A number of African countries have formulated national environmental action plans (NEAPs) to deal with environmental issues. Several countries have begun implementing investment programmes derived from these plans, including Burkina Faso, Ghana, and Madagascar. In addition, several countries are implementing natural resources management components, notably Benin, Mali and Kenya. Projects financed by the new Global Environmental Fund have also started, for example including Ghana Coastal Management, Congo Wild Lands, Seychelles bio-diversity and Mauritius Bagasse Energy.

39. Some African countries have established new institutions, e.g. ministries, secretariats, commissions, task forces, etc. to deal with environmental and sustainable development issues. In other countries, existing legislation has undergone significant review for improvements in light of the UNCED agreements.

40. Regarding integrating environment issues into key policies, plans and decision making, cooperation amongst various government agencies and NGOs has been both innovative and encouraging. A good number of African countries have given serious attention and priority to national capacity building for sustainable development. Several bilateral aid agencies and UN agencies have been complementing the efforts of Governments in strengthening the institutional, managerial and technical capacity of the latter to implement sustainable development programmes.

(g) Population and development

41. At the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in September 1994, 179 States, including African Governments, defined a new paradigm of population and development which goes beyond mere numbers of human beings and demographic targets to place the well-being of individual women and men at the centre of all activities aimed at achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

42. At the national level, African Governments are strongly committed to integrated population and development policies, plans and programmes. Almost

all countries have recognized that the high rate of population growth poses a major constraint to continued and sustained economic and social development. To date at least 38 African countries have adopted or are formulating an official National Population Policy; 30 countries have incorporated population factors into their "full" development plans or structural adjustment "rolling" plans. In about 10 African countries, observers already foresee the beginning of "demographic transition".

43. With respect to reproductive health, almost all African countries are integrating family planning counselling and services as well as safe motherhood initiatives into their public health programmes. In line with the ICPD Programme of Action, Governments are also taking steps to expand services to include other aspects of reproductive health, including prevention of HIV/AIDS. The network of service delivery is growing, although convenient access to these services varies greatly among the countries of Africa. In a recent survey of 41 responding countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, 29 reported significant progress in expanding their family planning service networks and 28 indicated an increase in the use of such services. The same survey noted a wide range among the countries in the percentage of Government health facilities which offer family planning services — from a low of 1 per cent to a high of 100 per cent. Such estimates are somewhat misleading, however, as they do not indicate the extent to which the services offered are either visible or truly accessible. The effect of increased accessibility, albeit still limited in most countries, is reflected in increased contraceptive prevalence rate in 22 of 45 Sub-Saharan African countries. In spite of these increases, however, prevalence remains below 20 per cent in all but 6 countries. Fewer than 15 per cent of couples use modern methods of contraception, and among married women more than 25 per cent are estimated to have unmet needs for family planning services. Improving reproductive health would be a major step in laying a solid basis for development in Africa.

(h) Agriculture, rural development and food security

44. A good number of African countries have made significant progress in removing major constraints to the development of the agricultural sector. Deregulation of wholesale and retail prices of agricultural products, particularly cereals and fertilizers, and withdrawal from direct involvement in agricultural marketing and the provision of agricultural inputs have been realized. Private sector development of horticulture production in Kenya and Zimbabwe, rubber in Côte d'Ivoire, pineapples in Cameroon, and coffee in Kenya are examples of spectacular private sector successes involving Africans and foreign companies that can be multiplied many times. Food crop marketing in Tanzania, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, and Benin by private marketing agents is a further example of successful private sector development in agriculture.

45. Several countries have also moved to consolidate more numerous agricultural extension projects created by donors into a more efficient and lower-cost national agricultural extension system. Recent evaluations of the Teaching and Visits (T&V) extension systems in Kenya and Burkina Faso have shown extremely high economic rates of return. Similar progress has been made in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda and Zambia. In addition, some of these extension systems have made special efforts to recruit women extension agents, and to develop messages designed to assist women. Kenya and Nigeria have been particularly effective in assisting women farmers. In Kenya, for instance, extension messages have been translated into vernacular languages since many rural women may not know Kiswahili or English.

46. Mali has been very successful in its move towards the increase in cotton production in various regions. In particular, a project carried out in the south of the country has stimulated production of food crops as well as cotton, in what used to be a food importing area. Reliable market schemes, the credit system and adequate storage facilities for the farmers have been attributes to this success.

47. Farmer-managed savings and co-operatives in Benin, Burundi, Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire have been supported by donors and Governments, and have shown considerable success. Co-operative marketing enterprises in Kenya (coffee) have shown success in the past, but this remained an isolated instance. There is a resurgence of interest in co-operatives in Cameroon, Tanzania, and Uganda. Informal farmer organizations such as women's groups are no longer restricted anywhere. Pastoral associations and irrigation associations are becoming stronger in the Sahel.

48. Food security projects were begun between 1991 and 1994 in six countries: namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Rwanda. In addition, food security strategies have been established in Kenya and the Sudan. Many donors have provided food for work and some dietary supplements. Indeed, there is increased food supply in those countries which have been undertaking sound marketing and other agricultural policy reforms. On the demand

side of food security equation (i.e. affordability by households), Governments have stepped up measures of technological support to farmers in terms of better seed, animal health, extension services, credit, and physical infrastructure (i.e. better roads) with a view to increasing farmers' incomes.

(i) South-South cooperation

49. During approximately the past five years, continuous efforts have been made towards the strengthening of the South-South cooperation. The various steps being pursued by a number of Africa's sub-regional groupings for enhancing economic cooperation within the continent have already been documented. The scope of South-South cooperation covers areas such as transfer of technology and know-how, the provision of advisory services, training, joint ventures, trade and investment, agricultural and fishery development, education and research, and poverty reduction.

50. Some major donor countries have called for increased emphasis on South-South cooperation, its inclusion as a central element in the Agenda for Development and the convening of the United Nations Conference on South-South cooperation (General Assembly resolution 49/16). This has contributed to the relaunching of South-South cooperation with Africa. In this respect, a number of initiatives related to the implementation of the New Agenda were carried out by the UNDP Special Unit for TCDC and included inter alia: (i) A meeting of over 20 African senior officials involved in public sector administration and management. The meeting worked out a strategy for enhancing productivity, accountability and responsiveness of public institutions in the region, which was reflected in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly's Fiftieth Resumed Session on Public Administration and Development. (ii) The commissioning of a sourcebook on African food production and processing technologies for commercialization to promote indigenous African technologies and bring research results into the productive sector. (iii) A capacity enhancement exercise in the area of agriculture, industry and technology, which was co-sponsored by the Government of Nigeria and included the participation of over 24 countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, reached agreement on over 270 proposals.

51. Other United Nations system institutions that have contributed to boosting South-South cooperation with Africa include the Economic Commission for Africa, which has been assisting African sub-regional groupings in their efforts towards harmonization and trade liberalization, among them supplemented by sectoral programmes in agriculture, infrastructure, transport, communications and monetary harmonization. UNCTAD and FAO have provided technical assistance and advisory services to a large number of African integration and cooperation groupings. NGOs and PVOs (private voluntary organizations) have provided a wide range of services and are taking part in networking and triangular arrangements involving other NGOs, NGO associations, PVOs, universities, development agencies and recipient governments.

52. An important step in the strengthening of the Africa/Asia cooperation was the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), followed by the Africa-Asia Forum: Sharing of Experiences. The Forum adopted the Bandung Framework for Asia-Africa Cooperation: Working Towards the Twenty-first Century, which constitutes a platform for inter-regional cooperation based on the sharing of experiences on policies and practices in the priority areas of the New Agenda. A series of sub-regional workshops and seminars including, in particular, regional workshops for Eastern and Southern Africa, and for Western and Central Africa were held in 1995 and 1996.

53. Another initiative that is worth mentioning is the African-Latin American Institute, which has been designed to support collaborative relations between the two continents in the areas of trade and investment, social and economic development and educational, cultural and scientific exchanges. Furthermore, there is cooperation between the Organization of African Unity and the Latin American Economic System.

(j) The role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

54. With the emergence of civil society as a result of political and economic reforms, NGOs play an increasing role in African development. They are no more under suspicious scrutiny from governments. In several countries, NGOs prominently supplement governments' efforts towards development programmes; e.g., mobilization of domestic resources, infrastructure development and education. Some Governments have integrated NGOs and professional organizations in decision-making on devising policy frameworks and early planning of programmes.

55. Concrete examples of partnership between State actors and civil society can now be spotted in several African countries. In Senegal, the municipality of Dakar launched, together with the Coordination of Youth Associations and Movements in the Urban Community

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of Dakar (CAMDUD), a vast operation of cleaning the city, ensuring a satisfactory evacuation of household waste and a follow-up of efforts for environmental education provided by local authorities and State services. In Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, a local committee for dialogue (Comité Local d'Animation et de Suivi — CLAS) was established. It deals with the dynamics of local urban development. In Ghana, cooperation between the Government and the Ghana Association of Women Entrepreneurs (GAWE) led to the organization of the First Global Women Entrepreneurs Trade Fair and Investment in Africa held in Accra in June 1996. In Cameroon, access by relevant NGOs to radio and television with a view to assuring gender balance in decision-making helped increase the number of women in municipal councils from 400 to 800 in recent elections. In Zimbabwe, cooperation between the Government and the Organization of Rural Associations for Progress (ORAP) facilitated the distribution of relief food supplies during the 1992 drought. Over the last three years, the African Centre for Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) has been training civic leaders in public policy negotiations and conflict resolution in South Africa.

B. BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

B.1. The donor community

56. The donor community has participated in, and committed itself to supporting the implementation of UN-NADAF. In addition, donor countries have taken several new measures in support of economic reforms, including development programmes and projects in Africa, peace-keeping and emergency relief operations. The support of the international community in the implementation of UN-NADAF may be broadly categorized in four main areas: official development assistance; external debt; market access; and foreign direct investment.

57. In the 1991 report for the final review and appraisal of UNPAAERD, the Secretary-General estimated the official development assistance (ODA) needed for the implementation of the New Agenda to amount to the tune of US$ 30 billion in 1992, rising in real terms by 4 per cent annually. Bilateral and multilateral aid flows to Africa continued to increase in the 1980s, reaching the peak in 1990. However, since then, resource flows to Africa have declined, for example, net flows of ODA to Africa as a whole accounted for US$ 25 billion in 1992 and declined to US$ 23 billion in 1994. Official development assistance has been an important element for many African countries, especially sub-Saharan African countries. Bilateral ODA in real terms declined from a high of US$ 13.9 billion in 1990 to US$ 11.7 billion in 1993 to the sub-Saharan region.

58. There have been some improvements in the last five years regarding the modalities of aid to Africa, especially disbursement. An increasing share of ODA is going through the multilateral institutions, which generally lend in support of economic adjustment programmes. For example, ODA flows to those African countries implementing IMF-supported adjustment programmes have grown more rapidly than for other countries without such programmes. Thus, between 1987-92, average annual net ODA flows grew more than 40 per cent for Benin and the Gambia, 35 per cent for Mozambique and almost double for Uganda. This trend may be considered in conformity with the donors' commitment under UN-NADAF to support Africa's reform efforts.

59. A positive element to declining ODA has been the increasingly concessional terms for ODA to sub-Saharan Africa from countries of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee. For example, the average grant element of ODA is estimated to have increased by about 3 percentage points during 1992-93 over that of a decade ago. Donor aid to Africa is now primarily in the form of grants. The loans from multilateral institutions including the World Bank and the IMF are on concessionary basis.

60. Some OECD countries have been unable to fulfil their commitments due to financial difficulties in their respective countries. However, some other OECD countries, particularly Norway and Japan, have fully adhered to the principle of additionality of aid resources to Africa as enunciated in UN-NADAF (Table 1). While Norway topped as the highest aid giver in terms of its share of GNP in 1994, France, United States of America, Germany and Japan ranked as the four major donors to Africa.

61. Some donors are channelling greater amounts of assistance through NGOs to improve the outreach of such interventions and support at the grassroots level and to assist vulnerable groups and women.

62. In addressing the burning issue of African external indebtedness, a number of initiatives have been proposed to reduce the burden, especially for highly indebted least developed African countries. The initiative taken in 1992 by Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden to cancel as much as US$ 15.1 billion of ODA debt owed by LDCs, equivalent to 14 per cent of total concessional bilateral debt, benefited mostly the low-income

African countries. In the same move, the United States of America has announced its willingness to write off up to half of the debt owed to it by the poorest, IDA eligible African countries. Equally important is the recent forgiveness by France, in January 1994, of an important share of the stock of the public debt of the 14 countries of the CFA zone, in the context of the CFA Franc devaluation. The most striking feature of the recent debt relief initiatives is that many restructuring strategies have offered a conversion clause, giving ample room to debt for development swaps.

63. Notwithstanding the coming into force of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations, African countries temporarily continue to enjoy preferential access to European Union market under the Lomé Convention IV, the Generalized System of Trade Preferences (GSTP), the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) and other stabilisation mechanisms. The conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the World Trade Organization are major steps towards liberal market access. While the consequences of the Uruguay Round for Africa are detrimental in the short term, with the improved macroeconomic situation, realistic exchange rates for African currencies and market-oriented policies, Africa would, in the long run, be in a better position to penetrate export markets. Some donors have expressed their willingness to consider measures to protect Africa from the adverse effects of the Uruguay Round. Allied to this, the World Trade Organization would be the best institution to assist African countries to take advantage of the opportunities being afforded by the Uruguay Round.

64. Foreign direct investment (FDI) can play an important role in providing development resources for Africa. Unfortunately, FDI is currently small and concentrated in just a few sectors. Additionally, FDI flows to Africa have stagnated since the second half of the 1980s, at around US$ 3 billion per year. The recent efforts made by many African countries at providing the business and investment confidence, and macroeconomic stabilization and structural reforms provide promising prospects of increased FDI flows into Africa. Donor countries could assist in stimulating additional FDI flows into Africa by making Africa more attractive to foreign investors.

65. More details on resource flows to Africa during the mid-term period of the implementation of UN-NADAF are provided in a separate report entitled "Resources Requirements" (A/AC.251/5).

66. The regional dimension of development, which is a major element in the New Agenda, has also been supported by a core of donors which view economic integration in Africa as an element of sustainability in the longer-term. In support of the process which had been started by African Governments, several initiatives aiming at strengthening integration institutions have been taken by some of Africa's partners, especially in the Sahel, Eastern and Southern Africa region.

B.2 The United Nations system

67. Since its adoption in December 1991, the implementation of the UN-NADAF has been a primary concern of the United Nations under the leadership of the Secretary-General. Not only has African economic recovery and development been proclaimed one of the top priority issues of the United Nations in the 1990s, but more concretely a special programme of the United Nations medium-term plans (Programme 45 of the medium term plan 1992-1997 and programme 6 of the mid-term plan 1998-2001) and a special section of the United Nations Programme-budget (section 7-B) have been established for Africa. Institutional arrangements including the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries in the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the United Nations Inter Agency Task Force on Africa chaired and serviced by the Economic Commission for Africa and the Africa Recovery Unit in the Department of Public Information have been put in place to promote and support the consideration of the implementation of the New Agenda at the global and regional levels, coordinate system-wide efforts, increase and sustain awareness of Africa's critical economic and social situation and impulse concrete actions at the field level.

68. In addition, the Secretary-General established in 1992 a Panel of High level Personalities to advise and assist him on African development. The Panel was recently fully reconstituted. The Panel reached conclusions and made concrete recommendations on a number of important issues, such as, debt, diversification of Africa's commodities, financial flows, human resource development, peace, democracy and development, economic cooperation and regional integration, and role of non-governmental organizations. These conclusions and recommendations have been made available in a publication entitled "Priority Africa, Summary of the Work of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development".

69. Some of the actions taken by the United Nations to ensure the implementation of the New Agenda include co-organizing the initiative described in para

53 above. The Asia-Africa Forum played a catalytic role in the establishment of the South-South Cooperation Fund and the Asia-Africa Cooperation Fund with UNDP. The United Nations has also worked to promote the dialogue between development actors in African development, especially to enhance cooperation with NGOs. Raising African emerging issues, advocating for vigorous support to Africa to avoid its further marginalization and ensuring that the continent remains a top priority of the international agenda have also been its primary concern.

70. Particular attention was given by the United Nations to the issues of Africa's external indebtedness and diversification of commodities. On the first issue and on the recommendation of the Panel of High-level Personalities on African Development, regular submissions were made to the G-7 at its annual Summits in 1993, 1994, 1995 and 1996. These have contributed to progress achieved on debt relief for African countries.

71. On the second issue, the proposal by the Secretary-General to establish a diversification facility for Africa's commodity stemming from his report to the General Assembly (A/48/335) and complemented by a further analysis (A/48/914) has led to the adoption of the General Assembly resolution 49/142. This resolution invites States participants in the African Development Fund, which exists within the African Development Bank, to make a special adequate contribution to finance the preparatory phase of commodity diversification programmes and projects. For their part, many African countries, especially Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Namibia, and the Gambia have actively embarked on commodity diversification programmes and projects.

72. At the request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and in compliance with the provision of paragraphs 39 and 40 of the New Agenda, the United Nations system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development was established in 1992 and revised in 1994. Following its consideration of a policy paper on African development in September 1994, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, which gathers under the leadership of the Secretary-General, all Executive Heads of the United Nations system organizations including the Bretton Woods Institutions, decided to prepare and launch the Special Initiative on Africa.

73. Various agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have, to a great extent, adapted their programmes towards the achievement of the major objectives of the New Agenda. New programmes and additional resources have been directed to key priority areas, including human development and capacity building, basic health and the control of pandemics, food and agriculture, natural resources and environment management, and the promotion of women in development.

74. UN-NADAF and other instruments incorporate provisions showing international support for Africa's informal sector and its role in the development process. In this connection, the United Nations system organized an international workshop on "Informal Sector Development in Africa" in New York in June 1995. The workshop recommended an international task force to be set up to design a specific programme of support for Africa's informal sector. The programme of support is currently under preparation.

75. The diversification and reinforcement of production systems have been strongly advocated and support programmes have been carried out through projects and programmes designed by UNIDO and FAO to increase production and improve the competitivity of products. Several measures have been taken in implementation of the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA II). These measures relate to increased production, promotion of inter-African trade, vertical diversification of industrial production and capacity building for industrial development through strengthening Africa's technological capabilities and thus enhancing its competitiveness in the global economy. Increased financial loans and support programmes have been directed towards the development of the private sector and the setting up of viable enterprises.

76. As for assistance for the mobilisation of internal and external financial resources the implementation of programmes aimed at reinforcing informal and formal financial systems has contributed to promoting domestic savings in African countries. Other programmes have been developed to restore the debt servicing capacity of African countries in order to facilitate their access to external funds. Initiatives for debt reduction were undertaken and reinforced and led to the debt cancellation of close to US$ 1.5 billion.

77. The economic integration of African countries has been encouraged through support projects designed for economic groupings (ECCAS, ECOWAS, UDEAC) as part of the economic integration process of their respective regions. Actions have been undertaken by the Joint OAU/ECA/ADB Secretariat set up to support the establishment of the African Economic Community. Due attention has been paid to the development of transport and communications in the eco-

nomic integration process through the Sub-Saharan African Transport Programme (SSATP). The implementation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA II) also benefitted from consultant services. Projects for the computerization and dissemination of economic data were equally implemented.

78. In order to achieve human development, many programmes and projects have been designed to reinforce and develop human resources as well as improve the health situation and living conditions. The development of human resources particularly through a better involvement of women in the development process has led to projects focusing on the participation of women in industrial development. Other actions were also undertaken to promote women's role in social development and to support measures taken at the national level for women.

79. Actions aimed at achieving education for all led to the implementation by UNESCO, of the programme "Priority: Africa", focusing on the development of support projects with the view to formulating national policies for education, improving teaching aids and teachers' training. Particular attention was paid to the Republic of South-Africa through the implementation of a special programme "Rebuild South-Africa", the objectives of which were to harmonize education and consolidate democracy. Other programmes were carried out to increase female school enrolment through projects aimed at reducing the gender gap in primary education and through support projects to improve child education.

80. With regard to the improvement of the health situation, projects devised by WHO were aimed at extending health activities and measures to the local level. Epidemiological surveillance systems have been put in place, and the coordination of HIV/AIDS control activities have been strengthened. Programmes to control diseases which are particularly widespread in the continent, such as malaria and leprosy, have been developed. Priority has been given to child care. Programmes aimed at iodizing salt and distributing vitamin A have been carried out. The implementation by UNICEF of the Universal Child Immunization (UCI) as well as the intensification of Oral Rehydration Therapy for children (ORT) has contributed to the reduction of child mortality.

81. Concerted action is needed to tackle health problems around the world, in particular in Africa. One such concerted action is the Joint United Nations Programme — UNAIDS — launched in 1993 by UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. This is an unprecedented joint venture of a common approach by the United Nations with a view to tackling a major problem in a coordinated and cost-effective manner. In Africa, UNAIDS works with African countries on approaches that draw on international "best practices", that builds on what countries throughout the world have already put into place and takes advantage of the experience and expertise they have accumulated over the past decade. Assistance is being provided in such areas as blood safety, behaviour change strategies, legal responses, medical care for curable sexually transmitted diseases, social marketing of condoms, and strategies to address the two-way links between AIDS and development.

82. In the field of employment promotion and capacity building, the ILO continued to implement technical cooperation projects in several African countries. Programmes included technical assistance to Labour Ministries, Private Employers and Workers Organizations. Activities also included technical support to African regional and national networks for employment promotion, infrastructures development in rural areas and the development of formal and informal micro, small and medium-scale enterprises.

83. To improve living conditions and the quality of the environment, technical support projects and clean water distribution and environmental sanitation programmes have been carried out. With regard to environmental protection, programmes were designed to set up environment friendly production units and promote the utilization of biomass energy. Programmes also focused on desertification control and soil degradation as well as the protection and regeneration of flora and forest cover.

84. In order to avoid the deterioration of the prevailing socio-economic situation, actions were undertaken to promote peace, support emergency relief, protect the environment and sensitize the International Community to the African situation. Due attention was paid by WFP and UNHCR to emergency relief programmes. These programmes focused on food aid to the victims of natural disasters or armed conflicts and on the rehabilitation of displaced persons and returnees. Several actions also focused on the provision of medical kits and on the rehabilitation and rapid reconstruction of educational systems.

85. Actions undertaken were designed to consolidate and speed up economic growth in Africa through the development of economic reform policies, promoting good governance, diversifying production systems,

and promoting financial resources mobilization and economic integration. With regard to the implementation of economic reform policies, policy advice was provided by both the World Bank and the IMF in the formulation of economic reform policies. Projects were set up to increase governments' ability to manage socio-economic policies as well as to support the promotion of good governance.

86. Activities related to aid co-sponsoring and coordination with the view to promoting capital flows to Africa have been carried out. The Special Assistance Programme of Sub-Saharan Africa (SPA) has been able to mobilize over US$12 billion for the period 1991-1996. Since 1991, financial loans for development projects stand at over US$ 3.5 billion per year, 45 per cent being soft loans.

87. The New Agenda is consistent with the spirit of the Special Programme for Africa, established by the World Bank in 1989, with the contribution of the major donor countries, to support adjustments and reforms in Africa. The New Agenda sets out priority issues that have been forcefully promoted by the Global Coalition for Africa (GCA) established in 1991 with the support of the World Bank, and following the Maastricht Conference of October 1990. As a major international initiative of the early 1990s, the GCA has been conducting, at a high political level, a policy dialogue between Africa and its development partners on a wide range of issues, especially political and economic reforms.

88. The World Bank has also established the Debt Reduction Facility with original capital of US$ 100 million in 1989, which was replenished by US$ 100 million in 1993. More recently, the World Bank has taken a lead role in working out the possibilities of radically treating multilateral debt owed to the International Financial Institutions.

89. In addition to its continued response to Africa's adjustment needs through the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) and Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF), the IMF has expanded the scope of its emergency assistance procedure, which now gives a special consideration to post-conflict situations. The Fund, jointly with the World Bank has recently proposed a strategy to resolve the external debt of a number of heavily indebted low-income countries, including some in Africa.

90. A strategic approach to food and agriculture development has been adopted, thus underscoring the need to restore the path of development while responding to growing emergency needs. Efforts were intensified in early warning systems for food-related disasters, with a view to enhancing production, rehabilitating rural infrastructures, supporting women producers, integrating food processing, trading and distribution, and promoting horizontal and vertical diversification.

91. In support of the improvement of food security, FAO has devised clearly focused programmes to serve the development of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and nutrition, including the Special Programme on food production in support of food security in low-income food deficit countries and the "Emergency Prevention System for Transboundary Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases".

B.3. Non-governmental organizations

92. An impressive network of indigenous and international grassroots non-governmental organizations have supported a wide range of developmental actions in Africa, especially in the major areas of fostering community participation, promoting self-help employment among rural women and the youth, uplifting the poor and protecting the right of consumers. Across Africa, indigenous and international NGOs have strived to empower the people through providing credit and business inputs, improve food security, protect the environment, launch local credit schemes and promote family planning and welfare.

93. Persistent conflicts and an increased number of refugees and displaced people have broadened the scope and role of NGOs. For example, in Somalia, Rwanda and Liberia, NGOs have been at the forefront of emergency operations and activities aimed at the reconstruction of social and economic infrastructures in such war-torn countries.

94. The superior ability of NGOs in reaching the poor and the needy is widely acknowledged by other social partners in Africa's development. This justifies the increasing support of the NGO movement by the donor community, as confirmed by the "Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development" adopted by the 1995 World Summit on Social Development.

95. Since the International Conference on Popular Participation in Development held in Arusha, Tanzania in 1990, the emerging role of NGOs has been reaffirmed. Its legal basis in relation to UN-NADAF is found in paragraphs 21 and 41 of UN-NADAF, and in paragraph 6 of the General Assembly-Resolution 50/160. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has reaffirmed the role of NGOs in Africa's development process in numerous official statements, particularly during the second meeting of the Panel of High-

level Personalities on African Development held in Rome in April 1993.

96. The United Nations structures responsible for the mobilization of international support and monitoring the implementation of the New Agenda have strengthened their cooperation with NGOs through constant consultation on priority issues of African development, and through the preparatory mechanisms for important inter-governmental processes including: the Brainstorming Workshop on NGOs and African Development organized by the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries (OSCAL) in New York in January 1995; the Parallel Event to the high-level Segment of ECOSOC on Priority Africa: A Policy Dialogue Among Development Actors held in Geneva in July 1995; OSCAL's work with NGOs during the NGO Forum and the Fourth World Conference on Women in August-September 1995 in Beijing; and the ECA/FAVDO symposium on the role of NGOs in the implementation of UN-NADAF held in November 1994 in Saly, Senegal.

97. Besides the growing involvement of NGOs in the implementation of UN-NADAF and in partnership with many African Governments in the field as described in this report, NGOs have also been encouraged to participate in the Mid-Term Review of UN-NADAF. NGOs have prepared a background information report on the implementation of the New Agenda.

B.4. Special Initiative on Africa

98. The need to further forge United Nations system-wide coordination including the Bretton Woods Institutions and collaborative approaches to African development, and to reconcile these with development priorities as defined by African countries themselves, justified the launching of the Special Initiative on Africa. The Special Initiative is a significant and unique system-wide partnership framework for the mobilization of support for a region. It is meant to give new impetus and serve as operational wing to UN-NADAF.

99. The Special Initiative is built on 20 priority action programmes, with five major components including water, basic education for all, health, capacity building for governance and food security. The strategy and resource requirements for the latter component will be developed following the forthcoming World Food Summit. The Special Initiative is drawn from the objectives of UN-NADAF and has its innovative features in the practical implementation arrangements at the country level and in the effective synergy resulting from enhanced cooperation between African countries, United Nations agencies, bilateral and multilateral donor agencies.

100. The support of the international community is crucial for the success of the Special Initiative. Such support implies the mobilization of financial resources that may be needed to implement programmes and projects designed within the goals of the Initiative. On the other hand, the United Nations system should rapidly move to concrete actions, reinforce cooperation with Africa's bilateral and multilateral partners, and more specifically build and sustain the required synergy.

Table 1

Official development assistance flows to Africa 1983-1994

($ mn, two-year average)

	1983-84	1993-94
Total ODA (net)	**10435.2**	**21958.9**
Bilateral flows from DAC countries*	**6766.7**	**13628.1**
Australia	58.4	60.4
Austria	75.0	98.7
Belgium	183.0	230.1
Canada	332.9	321.1
Denmark	128.1	376.4
Finland	64.4	88.0
France	1241.9	3873.2
Germany	799.1	1480.9
Ireland	0.0	32.7
Italy	357.8	934.4
Japan	371.5	1349.8
Luxembourg	0.0	17.0
Netherlands	301.7	533.8
New Zealand	0.2	2.9
Norway	172.5	337.6
Portugal	0.0	201.1
Spain	0.0	172.9
Sweden	254.9	487.5
Switzerland	96.5	198.0
United Kingdom	281.6	571.7
United States	2047.5	2260.0

*Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

Source: OECD, *Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows to Aid Recipients*, Paris, 1996, and United Nations, *World Economic and Social Survey, 1996*, New York

Table 2

African Economies at a Glance

	Population		GNP per capita ($)		GDP ($mn)	GDP annual growth	Total debt ($m n)		Debt service as % of exports		Food production per capita (1979-81=100)		Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Life expectancy (years)		Adult literacy		Primary school enrolment %		Access to safe water (%)	
	1995 (thousand)	1991-95 annual growth rate (%)	1991	1995	1995	1991-95 (%)	1991	1994	1991	1994	1992 (1)	1995 (2)	1991 (3)	1994 (4)	1991 (3)	1994 (4)	% of adults (5)	% of adult females (5)	1990 (3)	1993 (4)	1991 (3)	1994 (4)
Algeria	28581	2.19	2186	2001	57194	0.40	28636	29899	68.4	55.3	124.2	125.1	50	54	65	67	41	55	96	99	71	79
Angola	11072	3.06	1079	831	9204	-2.17	8775	10608	5.8	2.5	79.2	69.1	170	170	46	46	29	43	93	91	35	32
Benin	5235	1.89	408	441	2307	3.45	1300	1619	6.3	8.2	117.1	112.8	89	85	47	47	19	31	66	59	54	50
Botswana	1433	2.36	2805	2965	4249	3.50	543	691	3.4	3.9	60.8	62.6	62	42	60	65	55	67	115	116	53	93
Burkina Faso	10352	2.28	300	325	3366	3.95	956	1126	9.2	20.7	129.0	125.6	120	89	48	47	7	17	36	36	69	78
Burundi	6343	2.32	219	228	1445	3.17	960	1126	31.5	25.2	88.8	81.2	108	106	49	50	19	32	69	69	38	70
Cameroon	13275	2.28	1015	813	10797	-2.16	6278	7275	20.5	16.5	74.9	75.8	66	69	54	56	44	57	101	101	22	50
Cape Verde	419	2.35	1059	1069	448	2.55	159	170	9.2	12.0	105.7	89.8			67						71	
CAR	3429	2.10	499	463	1587	0.59	884	891	8.2	12.4	93.0	100.0	106	103	50	49	41	51	64	69	12	18
Chad	6361	2.25	242	237	1506	1.84	606	817	4.4	8.3	102.6	91.8	125	119	47	47	29	43	57	65		24
Comoros	653	2.97	450	423	276	1.68	175	186	5.1	5.1	81.9	80.5			55							
Congo	2590	2.42	1261	1113	2883	-0.10	4744	5275	23.4	51.5	91.3	75.9	83	82	54	51	59	69			38	38
Côte d'Ivoire	14401	2.98	790	734	10567	1.47	18847	18451	39.1	37.4	89.3	89.4	93	90	53	51	24	34	70	70	18	72
Djibouti	511	2.44	1048	961	491	0.66	197	247	4.6	2.2					48						47	
Egypt	58519	1.76	906	911	53302	1.87	40571	33358	16.7	14.6	117.5	124.5	62	41	60	63	34	48	97	102	89	80
Eq. Guinea	400	2.13	464	425	170	0.36	249	291	7.5	3.0					47							
Ethiopia	58039	2.47	116	101	5863	-0.38	3475	5059	25.4	11.7	18.9		125	117	46	47	21	31	38	22	19	25
Eritrea														117		50						
Gabon	1197	2.69	4870	4400	6015	0.63	3843	3968	6.8	10.4	81.2	75.0	97	91	53	53	45	67			68	68
Gambia	980	2.08	351	360	343	2.04	350	419	16.5	19.0	90.1	68.6		129	44	45	20	34		69	77	48
Ghana	17453	2.42	423	464	8092	4.32	4210	5389	26.9	24.6	107.9	130.1	84	76	55	56	46	59	75	74	57	56
Guinea	6700	2.46	486	515	3453	3.67	2626	3104	16.0	16.3	95.5	107.2	138	131	44	44	18	32	34	42	32	55
Guinea Bissau	1073	1.75	265	272	292	2.27	654	817	47.4	12.7	104.5	112.0	143	137	43	43	37	50	59	60	25	53
Kenya	27885	2.71	363	349	9721	1.90	7013	7274	32.2	33.3	99.8	80.5	52	61	60	56	62	72	94	95	30	53
Lesotho	1977	2.00	330	344	681	2.88	428	600	4.7	4.5	55.4	46	82	106	57	60	57	68		106	48	52
Liberia	3039	3.37	676	390	1184	-8.04	1986	2975			63.3	52.7	131	144	54	55	18	34	34	40	55	46

	Population		GNP per capita ($)		GDP ($mn)	GDP annual growth	Total debt ($mn)		Debt service as % of exports		Food production per capita (1979-81=100)		Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)		Life expectancy (years)		Adult literacy		Primary school enrolment %		Access to safe water (%)	
	1995 (thousand)	1991-95 annual growth rate (%)	1991	1995	1995	1991-95 (%)	1991	1994	1991	1994	1992 (1)	1995 (2)	1991 (3)	1994 (4)	1991 (3)	1994 (4)	% of adults (5)	% of adult females (5)	1990 (3)	1993 (4)	1991 (3)	1994 (4)
Libya	5407	2.81	6394	5609	30330	0.15	4295	4844	8.4	10.4	96.3	53.9	72	64	62	63	54	69			94	97
Madagascar	14155	2.66	237	229	3244	2.01	3716	4134	34.3	7.6	81.6	79.9	113	100	55	56	73	81	92	79	94	97
Malawi	11304	2.51	201	174	1965	-0.40	1676	2014	27.9	17.5	56.2	59.6	144	140	48	46	37	53	67	66	56	47
Mali	10797	2.57	254	250	2703	2.25	2531	2939	4.9	27.3	91.1	89.1	108	119	45	46	17	25	23	26	38	37
Mauritania	2336	2.31	511	530	1237	3.06	2298	2326	16.7	23.3	79.1	87.4	120	114	47	51	24	36	51	63	66	66
Mauritius	1130	0.80	2449	2887	3262	4.16	991	1355	9.4	6.9	114.3	102.8	22	19	70	70	75	80	103		95	99
Morocco	28260	1.93	1022	974	27534	0.96	21218	22513	27.6	32.1	101.6	105.0	72	46	62	63	26	39	68	69	61	55
Mozambique	16359	2.45	90	93	1521	3.08	4700	5491	12.3	23.0	61.3	84.9	170	161	48	46	19	36	68	60	24	33
Namibia	1688	2.53	1545	1449	2446	1.28					65.2	70.1	73	62	58	59				124		57
Niger	9102	2.65	318	281	2561	0.16	1653	1570	47.5	26.0	77.3	77.9	127	191	46	46	5	1.7	28	29		54
Nigeria	126929	2.52	310	305	38709	2.19	34497	33485	25.2	19.6	125.2	152.7	86	114	52	50			70	70	48	40
Rwanda	8330	2.76	343	163	1359	-11.43	844	954	17.5	11.8	78.0	63.2	112	80	50	47	44	55	69	77	64	66
Sao Tome	133	1.91	446	421	56	0.73	164	252	25.0	25.0	59.9	69.1			66							
Senegal	8387	2.18	762	726	6087	1.18	3522	3678	19.7	11.3	96.4	110.3	82	60	48	49	19	29	58	59	54	52
Seychelles	74	0.83	5028	5446	403	2.45	201	170	9.3	6.2					70						100	
Sierra Leone	4740	2.15	204	176	834	-0.82	1290	1392	9.1	10.0	79.4	75.6	146	164	42	39	14	27	53	48	42	34
Somalia	10173	2.66	69	42	425	-7.09	2435	2617				76.7	125	125	46	47	14	25	15	12	37	37
South Africa	42741	1.91	2717	2581	110322	0.87		16600		5.4		64.5		52		63	79	80		109		70
Sudan	28960	2.24	396	351	10165	-0.19	15907	16961	4.0	0.2	82.9	121.2	102	74	51	53	23	41	50	52	21	60
Swaziland	859	2.19	1179	1198	1029	2.51	258	237	3.5	2.5	76.3	80.2			57						53	
Tanzania	30742	2.71	99	92	2818	1.24	6460	7442	24.1	20.4	74.2	76.7	112	105	54	52	50	63	64	68	56	50
Togo	4138	2.57	418	363	1502	-0.28	1356	1455	7.5	7.6	97.2	84.1	88	83	54	55	30	46	103	100	71	63
Tunisia	8933	1.66	1670	1874	16740	4.02	8297	9254	22.7	18.4	115.6	97.9	45	28	67	68	47	60	115	120	68	99
Uganda	20406	2.41	213	234	4777	4.33	2830	3473	63.8	44.2	90.8	101.5	110	111	52	45	44	57	70	71	20	34
Zaire	43814	2.55	210	152	6678	-3.83	10704	12337	7.5	4.5	92.1	85.2	117	120	53	52	61	72	78		34	27
Zambia	9381	2.26	469	432	4049	0.59	7279	6574	40.6	31.2	70.6	79.4	112	114	54	49	65	74	95	97	59	50
Zimbabwe	11536	2.36	694	638	7362	0.66	3429	4368	27.6	26.9	42.9	52.9	61	57	60	54	77	83	125	119		77

Source: All data ECA Secretariat except:
(1) FAO; ECA Secretariat 1993
(2) FAO; ECA Secretariat 1996
(3) ECA data on the basis of UNICEF, The State of the World's Children, 1993 *and UNDP,* Human Development Report 1993
(4) ECA data on the basis of UNICEF, The State of the World's Children, 1996 *and UNDP,* Human Development Report 1995
(5) 1990, last data available

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